## atTRACKtions

A Union Pacific Employee Clubs/Friend to Friend Network Newsletter | June 2017



## San Antonio Advocates Rail Safety to Kids



Club 66 members participate in San Antonio Safe Kids Day. From left are Rivi Chaney; Mandy Chaney, treasurer; Mike Byers, locomotive engineer, and his daughter; Josh Carrillo, manager-hazardous materials; Gary Featherling, vice president; Manager-Public Safety Buck Russel, president, dressed as the Operation Lifesaver mascot; Charlotte Featherling, secretary; and Bob Moore, UPEC Executive Committee member.

Club 66 joined other organizations April 8 for San Antonio Safe Kids Day. Injuries from car crashes, fires, drownings, poisonings, falls and other

Injuries from car crashes, fires, drownings, poisonings, falls and other accidents are the leading causes of childhood deaths in the United States. Throughout the world, 1 million children die of injuries each year — and nearly every death is preventable. The same goes for railroad-related incidents, which members discussed with attendees — 200 families in all, according to Manager-Public Safety Buck Russel, Club 66 president.

San Antonio Safe Kids Day is led by University Health System, which provides staff, operational support and other resources toward the safety of youths. Based on the community's needs, Safe Kids implements evidence-based programs, such as car seat inspections, safety workshops and sports clinics, designed to help parents and caregivers prevent childhood injuries.

## **Portland Pulls in New Members**

Club 9's ranks continue to grow thanks to regular membership drives, activities and members dedicated to helping the Portland community.

"From our charity breakfast to the train rides, the events we have draw people in," said Don Dolan, president.

The charity breakfast was March 25 at Sunnyside Church in Clackamas, Oregon. After feasting on pancakes, sausage and eggs, attendees enjoyed a prize drawing that raised funds for the UPEC Friend to Friend Network, American Red Cross and Portland Police Bureau's Sunshine Division, which provides food and clothing relief to local individuals in

need. Attendees also brought canned goods to donate to the Sunshine Division.

From April 2 to 9, members Jim and Joy Montgomery placed posters and boxes of cookies at UP facilities throughout Portland. Interested passersby could either simply make a donation for a bag of cookies, or they could fill out a UPEC membership application.

Dolan praised the efforts of Club 9 members, including his wife, Ruth, in building a strong member base.

"When she runs into someone who's not a member, she's terrific at publicizing the club and what we do," he said.



**<<<<<<** 

From UPEC Executive Committee Chairman Kevin Hanlon

I hope many of you made plans to attend this year's UPEC Friend to Friend Golf Tournament. This will be our 11th tournament, which raises much-needed funds to help railroaders and their loved ones when they need them most. March 2017 was a record month for the UPEC Friend to Friend Network, as 136 employees received support. Those who need such help can't predict when they will need it, which is why our donations are so important.

From the Midwest to the Pacific Northwest, this edition provides a glimpse into what your fellow club members are accomplishing. Each day provides us new opportunities to consider how we can strengthen our clubs. You have made positive contributions in this area, and we want to recognize you for them.

And, of course, I look forward to seeing many of you in California's capital city in August when we gather for our 93rd convention! Sacramento and the Hilton Arden West were wonderful hosts in the past, and we look forward to returning.

Thank you for your continued dedication to your communities, and to one another.

- Kevin Hanlon, executive committee chairman



Dave and Cindy Whisenhunt of Club 1, Cheyenne, Wyo.

#### Club 1 Plans Comeback

Cindy and Kevin Hanlon

Now retired, Dave Whisenhunt aims to restart Club 1 of Cheyenne, Wyoming. A track inspector, he hung up his hard hat in January after 39 years of service.

"We're trying to regroup," he said.
"We want to keep UPEC Friend to
Friend going and take care of our own
— it's the most important thing we do.
It's all about community and family."

Past Club 1 events have included raising

funds and cooking Thanksgiving meals for service members stationed at nearby Francis E. Warren Air Force Base and their families. Members have prepared turkeys, hams, pies and hundreds of pounds of potatoes for attendees. Club 1 also plays an active role in Cheyenne Terminal family days, and some members are involved in Operation Lifesaver — Whisenhunt himself intends to recertify soon, he said.

# SAN ANTONIO Closes Streets for SÍCLOVÍA



Club 66 raised rail safety awareness during the San Antonio YMCA's March 28 Síclovía.

Síclovía is a free event that turns major Alamo City streets into a safe place for people to exercise and play. Motor vehicles are prohibited for five hours so families can run, ride bikes or skateboard, take exercise classes and enjoy their streets.

Such events originated in the 1970s in Bogota, Colombia. Called Ciclovía — Spanish for "cycleway" — they are now held around the world.

More than 84,000 people attended the March event; another is scheduled for Oct. 22. According to President Buck Russel, Club 66 members distributed 1,200 rail safety drawstring backpacks while advocating for safety along UP's Rockport Subdivision, an active line through downtown San Antonio.



#### Join Your Local Employee Club!

This edition features the culmination of Union Pacific Employee Clubs' chief purpose: to positively impact communities while building camaraderie among co-workers, both past and present.

Through activities such as feeding the homeless, sorting toys for the Salvation Army, and collecting backpacks and shoes for low-income families, clubs give to Union Pacific communities. They also coordinate social outings such as attending concerts and dinners.

During the past decade, clubs' membership has declined at some locations, particularly among working railroaders. In the coming year, UPEC leaders aim to reignite membership and continue the tradition that began in 1924 in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Membership is open to retired and current employees, and their spouses. Annual membership costs vary from \$2 to \$5 and help fund club activities.

To learn more about your local employee club — or for more information on reactivating a club — visit www.up.com/employee/ upec.



Cleo Erickson, Club 70 president

#### "Employee clubs become a family unit."

Cleo Erickson,Club 70 president

St. James

#### Celebrates St. Patrick's

Members of St. James, Minnesota's Club 70 experienced a taste of the Emerald Isle during their March dinner.

President Cleo Erickson prepared Mulligan stew, trifle, soda bread and queen cakes for a dozen attendees, while also providing some traditional Irish beverages.

"They seemed to pop out for it," she said. "It was a good time." Club 70 members often gather for such meals, which Erickson enjoys because she gets to see her "other family."

"Employee clubs become a family unit," she said. "Everyone's there for the same reason — to see one another and do community service. It's a fun time, but with a purpose."

## Signalmen Show Support

When Union Pacific's Signal Construction forces gathered earlier this year for their annual startup meetings — a series of rules refreshers and project updates — they were encouraged to donate to the UPEC Friend to Friend Network.

Attendees of those meetings, which were held in Illinois, Nevada and Oklahoma, raised about \$4,900 combined.

While employees were encouraged to register for payroll deductions, funds also were raised through prize drawings for UP gear such as duffel bags, coffee mugs and flashlights.

Texas-based Signal Foreman Jay Exum, who will become the Signal Department's systemwide Total Safety Culture (TSC) coordinator June 1, said most of his colleagues know someone who has benefited from UPEC Friend to Friend.

"I have a friend whose home was torn up by a tornado," he said. "Involvement seems to keep growing and growing. So many people signed up this year, or said they already were — it's great to see that. Some even gave additional donations."

Signalmen know the value of UPEC Friend to Friend, said TSC Facilitator George Ledbetter of Salem, Illinois.

"If they're out a paycheck, their family is, too," he said. "When you don't have a paycheck coming in, UPEC Friend to Friend looks out for you."





Left: George Ledbetter, Signal TSC facilitator, Right: Jay Exum, Signal TSC coordinator

Along with his involvement in TSC — UP's employee-owned, voluntary peer observation process — Ledbetter serves as an advocate for Peer Support and Operation RedBlock, a labor-management partnership that uses employee peer groups to stop the acceptance and support of working while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. These processes — as well as UPEC Friend to Friend — emphasize a brother's-keeper mentality.

"I am here 24/7 for those employees," Ledbetter said. "They mean the utmost to me. I want them on the right path. When people take care of their brothers and sisters, the result is a success.

"It's all about the people. Positive attitudes get positive results."



#### Commuter Ops Engineering Commits to UPEC Friend to Friend

Jeff Klinefelter offered a bright incentive to his Chicago Commuter Operations co-workers this spring: If they raised \$5,000 for the

UPEC Friend Rules and Saf and keep it that They did just "Given that pretty sure that good chunk of

Engineering Rules and Safety Trainer Jeff Klinefelter dyes his hair pink after challenging his co-workers to raise funds for the UPEC Friend to Friend Network.

UPEC Friend to Friend Network, the Engineering Rules and Safety trainer would dye his hair pink and keep it that way for the entire month of April.

They did just that — twice over.

"Given that it is a high-quality dye job, I'm pretty sure that I'm going to be pretty pink for a good chunk of the summer," he said.

Employees raised about \$9,750, and help from management led to a five-figure donation to Friend to Friend.

As part of his responsibilities, Klinefelter presents annual rules classes for Commuter Ops' approximately 300 Engineering employees. During this spring's meetings, he explained UPEC Friend to Friend's purpose and how employees can donate

through payroll deductions and other methods.

"Maintenance of Way, Signal and B&B — I get in front of all of

them," he said. "It seemed like a good idea to get something going for Friend to Friend. We are a compassionate group, and it was a way to do something extra."

Klinefelter reminded his co-workers that many of them likely know someone who has benefited from UPEC Friend to Friend — for example, Manager-Track Projects Brian Bailey, whose 2-year-old daughter, Jenna, has fought health ailments her whole life.

"Knowing someone in our railroad family recognized that we are going through a difficult time is heartwarming," Bailey said. "I thank the UPEC Friend to Friend Network and people like our Peer Support volunteers, who are in the field every day trying to make an impact for this organization."

Klinefelter thanked Director-Track Maintenance Mike Gilliam for his "tremendous" support during the drive. A drawing for donated prizes such as poker sets, watches, UP gear and pens fabricated by a local employee raised funds.

"There are still big pockets unaware of Friend to Friend," he said. "If we can get the word out, great. Friend to Friend does a lot of good for folks in times of hardship."

### Bailey Extends Gratitude

Dear UPEC Friend to Friend Network,

My name is Brian Bailey. I am a manager-track projects for Chicago Commuter Operations Service Unit, and I would like to share the story of how the UPEC Friend to Friend Network impacted myself, my wife and my three children.

My family and I are originally from Texas and have been moved to several locations with the railroad, as many managers do. About 14 months ago, we moved to the Chicago area from Torrington, Wyoming, when I took a lateral MTP move. A couple of years ago, my wife and I were blessed with the news of being pregnant for a third time — this time with a girl. This was great news after having two boys, and we felt our family was complete.

At our 20-week ultrasound appointment, we were told our daughter had kidney issues and may

not live. This was devastating to my wife and I. We spent the next 17 weeks traveling the three hours from Torrington to the closest specialists located in Denver. We did many ultrasounds and tests to determine what her diagnosis might be and if any issues had progressed. Fortunately she was born healthy, but with what we now suspect is bilateral kidney dysplasia, meaning her kidneys developed abnormally and she will have to see doctors for the rest of her life to monitor her kidney health.

In March, our daughter, Jenna, had a fever that progressed over a three-day period up to 104.5 degrees. We took her to the hospital and found out that she had a urinary tract infection that had gone to her kidneys. My daughter and wife spent the next two days in the hospital while I tended to our other two children and attempted to manage work at the same time. After

two full days of intravenous antibiotics, Jenna was finally discharged at about 10 p.m. The next morning I had rules training, where I was one of the instructors. One of our Peer Support volunteers noticed I was struggling and asked how I was. I explained to him how the past few days had gone and some of our history. Like most people, he told me to inform him if he could help in any way, and I thanked him. I did not think much of this encounter.

The following week, I was in my office in downtown Chicago when my wife contacted me. She said that she had stopped and prayed for a minute that we would get some relief at some point with all of our medical bills. The arduous process of paying each bill and determining their amounts so we meet the minimum for each medical office is very stressful for her. After praying, she said she

#### **Dawkins Dedicated to Food Pantry**

These days on the railroad, a great deal of emphasis has been placed on the "UP Way," which encourages employees to continuously enhance safety, service and efficiency by providing methods, tools and processes to standardize work while eliminating variability and waste.

Even though he retired from the railroad in 2015, Club 76's John Dawkins still seeks to enhance efficiency and eliminate waste in his community.

The former rail grinder took initiative to overhaul the Salvation Army's Boone County, Iowa, food pantry.

"The shelves were like shopping carts," he said. "Food wouldn't stack properly."

Dawkins lined the shelves with wood, plastic and cardboard so he and other volunteers could stack more items, which were also placed in alphabetical order so they can be sorted and found quickly. Expired items also were thrown away.

"It's a lot more efficient now," he said.

The efficiency enhancements did not end there. Dawkins and other volunteers also

held an open-house cooking class, showing those who rely on the food pantry how to best use the items available. They also created a recipe database full of simple, nutritious meals.

The food pantry is supplied by the Food Bank of Iowa and public donations. Dawkins and others encourage the community to donate high-demand items such as soup and peanut butter.

"Here's a simple way to think of it: If you were hungry, what would you eat?" he said.

As of April 26, Dawkins had logged 300 hours with the Salvation Army Boone Corps in 2017. He also serves on the advisory board.

"We work for the community, either through service or charity, to make the county a better place," he said.

Lt. Pam Kastens, Salvation Army Boone Corps officer, praised his dedication.

"When I arrived in June 2014 as the new pastor/administrator, John was still working for UP and would spend his vacation time helping us by organizing the food pantry,"



John Dawkins, Club 76 president, volunteers in the Salvation Army's Boone, Iowa, food pantry — which he reorganized himself.

she said. "When John retired, he began working several hours a week, helping wherever needed. It is a breath of fresh air to have John as part of our team. The impact he is making in the lives of Boone County residents may be behind the scenes, but it has a huge impact."

Club 76 members also support the pantry through donations and continues to be involved in various activities.

"We're a small group, but we're making results," Dawkins said.

## "We work for the community, either through service or charity, to make the county a better place."

- John Dawkins, Club 76 president

received a call from Regional West Medical Center, located near our previous home in Wyoming, stating that they had decided to wipe one of our largest medical bills clean due to the fact we had been making regular payments on it monthly. The doctor had been paid off; we just owed the hospital money. My wife called me with this great news and was overjoyed with some financial relief.

Later that evening, I got home from work and saw our mail on the kitchen counter. One of the letters was addressed to me and had UPEC Friend to Friend on the top left corner of the envelope. At first I thought this was an attempt to get us to donate to the UPEC Friend to Friend Network. After opening this envelope, I realized I was completely wrong. I found a letter from Friend to Friend saying that someone had recognized our need, and it had a check in it. I showed this

to my wife and she got very emotional. She feels that between the phone call from Regional West Medical Center and the gift from UPEC Friend to Friend, her prayers were truly answered. I told my wife to use this check to assist her in paying some of our medical bills, and you could see the relief in her eyes, having hope of someday seeing the end of these bills. My wife has sacrificed a lot as a wife and mother to support my career as a manager, and receiving such a tangible gift has made her feel as if the railroad truly sees our family as an important part of the Union Pacific family.

As a manager of the company, I had assumed that UPEC Friend to Friend would not affect me and my family because there was someone else in the company that was more in need, or that since I was a manager, I would not be eligible to ever receive this

type of gift. Realizing now how this impacted my family, I would like to thank the UPEC Friend to Friend Network and people such as the Peer Support volunteer, who are in the field every day trying to make an impact on this organization. Just knowing that someone in our railroad family recognized that we were going through a difficult time and wanted to recognize us is heartwarming and makes a huge impact on myself and my family.

Thank you again and please continue your good deeds and influencing employees to support your network. The relationships we have as a company with our employees truly impact people's lives.

Thank You,

Brian Bailey, manager-track projects, Commuter Operations



#### Friend to Friend Marks Record Month

It's hard to predict what's around the corner.

In March, UPEC Friend to Friend Network helped 136 employees — a record month outside of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, according to President Terry Wynn.

"Accidents and illnesses don't come knocking," he said. "Friend to Friend gives people hope that they'll get through it."

Looking for a secure way to donate to the UPEC Friend to Friend Network? Anyone who pays household bills using online banking can easily make a one-time or recurring donation.

Simply add the following merchant information:

Business Name: Friend To Friend Network Business Address: 303 Pickwicket Dr., Conway, AR 72034 Phone: 501-327-1376 Account Number

**Your Name** 

#### Past Presidents Continue Fifth Monday Tradition

On the fifth Monday of months that have such a date — there typically are four in a calendar year — the past presidents of North Platte, Nebraska's Club 8 gather to enjoy good food and one another's company. The most recent occasion, held Jan. 30, included 10 past presidents and their guests.

According to Mick Jesse — a past president himself — three are in their 90s, including 97-year-old Frances Steele.



Past presidents of Club 8 gather for dinner.

# Omaha Club Helps Talented Youth Show Skills

Members of Omaha's Club 3 recently helped two middle-schoolers apply their creativity and education.

The children — an eighth-grader and sixth-grader — participate in Destination



Shar York, Club 3 president

I magination, a volunteer-led nonprofit organization whose purpose is to inspire and equip students to become innovators and leaders. It offers new standards-based challenges in STEM

(science, technology, engineering and mathematics), theater, visual arts and other fields. Participants team up to tackle a problem, which they must either solve or explain why it cannot be solved — all without coaching from adults.

The two took top honors locally and statewide, and will compete with youth from around the world May 24-27 at Destination Imagination's Global Finals in Knoxville, Tennessee. Club 3 donated funds to help send the children there.

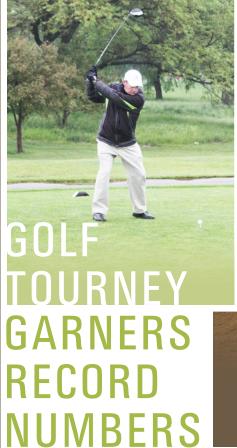
"We're really excited for them," said Shar York, president.

Club 3 also donated to a Kiwanis summer camp program for academically talented youth with financial needs. The camp teaches attendees independence, responsibility, how to get along with others, and how to make the right decisions.



Welcome to the Union Pacific Employee Clubs/Friend to Friend Network Newsletter, highlighting employee club members and club activities. This newsletter will be published quarterly. Please contact Matt, newsletter editor, and let him know about local and national club activities, community involvement, charitable giving and anything else you would like to see in your newsletter. This newsletter is for you and you should be highlighted! Whatever pictures you can send via email or postal mail would be greatly appreciated. News Link, 2201 Winthrop Rd., Lincoln, NE 685024158, 402-4756397, fax 402-475-6398, or email matt@newslink.com. By submitting photos, you state that you are the sole author of the photograph and control all rights for its use. Any employee who submits a photo retains all rights to the photo. By submission, you give Corporate Relations a perpetual license to use your photo and to sub-license the same for use by third parties. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter, including but not limited to, Brian Bailey, Don Dolan, Jay Exum, Charlotte Featherling, Pam Kastens, Jeff Klinefelter, Dennis Probasco, Buck Russel, Mick Steele and Marsha Stephens.







Drizzly weather during this year's UPEC Friend to Friend Network Golf Tournament couldn't dampen attendees' spirit of generosity.

Held May 17 at Dodge Riverside Golf Course in Council Bluffs, Iowa, 36 teams of golfers — a record number for the tournament — competed for bragging rights and pin prizes. More importantly, they raised more than \$18,000 for Friend to Friend, according to Treasurer Richard Baldwin.

The UPEC Friend to Friend Network Committee thanks everyone who played, donated or helped organize the tournament and looks forward to next year's event, which will hopefully be drier!

#### **FIRST FLIGHT**

First place: North Little Rock Service Unit (Nate Kamprath, Brandon Martens, Paul Nigrin and Mark Shirley)

**Second place:** Progress Rail/Haynes Corporation (Scott Dixon, Greg Schultz, Doug Spire and Eugine Tietz)

**Third place:** R.J. Corman Railroad Group (Greg Lanning, Tom Naso and Derrick Peterson)

#### **SECOND FLIGHT**

First place: Fugiel Railroad Supply (Mark Applegate, Anthony Fasanco, Jason Hetterman, Lucas Horn)

**Second place**: UP Mechanical No. 1 (Keith Bowman, Justin Malmstrom, Gram Mether and Eric Miles)

**Third place:** Andrew Franks' Team (Brian Carpenter, Andrew Franks, Jeromy Lyon and Ryan Vogel)

#### THIRD FLIGHT

**First place**: Harriman Dispatching Center No. 2 (Tom Dean, Leigh Glass, Ron Marshall and Sarah Vogel)

**Second place:** UP Mechanical No. 2 (Pat Bock, Joanne Fritch, Tim Karstens and Jocelyn Madhaven)

**Third place:** John & Cleo Erickson Team (Tom Flatau, Kevin Hanlon, Chopper Melheim and Steve Whitney)















#### UNION PACIFIC EMPLOYEE CLUBS Presidents Roster

President Club Location Cheyenne, Wyo. Dave Whisenhunt 3 Shar York **Omaha** 6 Ogden, Utah Marsha Stephens North Platte, Neb. 8 Lynn Steinbeck 9 Portland, Ore. Don Dolan 10 Spokane, Wash. Marguerite Haverfield Los Angeles **Ernest Flament** 11 Salt Lake City 12 **Beverly Thrall** 15 Pocatello, Idaho Gene Packer 17 La Grande, Ore. Joshua Rock 18 Green River, Wyo. **Dorothy Walker** 19 Hermiston, Ore. Monte Gartner 20 Evanston, Wyo. Joe Dean 22 Seattle Alfred Wilson Walla Walla, Wash. 24 Ted Bren 28 Marysville, Kan. Marilee Adams 30 The Dalles, Ore. **Gary Conley** 32 Salina, Kan. Jim Kirk 38 Portola, Calif. John Bontas 39 Stockton, Calif. Earl Roider Sr. 50 Chicago Jeronn Sisson 51 Fort Worth, Texas Diana McDowell 53 Houston Aaron Tinnell North Little Rock, Ark. 54 Jennifer Thiele 57 Addis, La. Margaret Wick 65 Alexandria, La. James Drayton 66 San Antonio **Buck Russel** 67 Livonia, La. Donald R Gholson Jr. 70 St. James, Minn. Cleo Erickson 71 Milwaukee John Gavin 72 Mason City, Iowa Kurt Christensen 75 Altoona, Wis. John Elstran

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Boone, Iowa

Adams, Wis.

Sparks, Nev.

Herington, Kan.

Roseville, Calif.

Ft. Dodge/Eagle Grove, Iowa

John Dawkins

Gloria Spiegel

**Rusty Beames** 

Raj Randhawa

**Gary Steele** 

**Dominic Pantaleo** 



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## Ogden Continues Outstanding Generosity

Club 6 continues to grow its membership while giving back to Ogden, Utah, a community steeped in railroad history. Members made donations totaling thousands of dollars to local charities April 26 and 27.

Ogden Rescue Mission's F.W. Seager Memorial Clinic — which supplies medical services, medications and some dental care to homeless and low-income clients — was presented \$2,000. Your Community Connection (YCC), which aids victims of domestic violence, homelessness and sexual assault,

received \$1,500. George E. Wahlen Veterans Home and New Hope Children's Center both received \$500 donations.

The club also thanked Ogden's Union Station, which hosts its monthly luncheons, with an \$800 donation.

Funds are raised in numerous ways. A March drawing raised \$960, and Goldenwest Credit Union — a partner of Club 6 — donated an additional \$1,000 to be distributed to charities.

According to President Marsha Stephens,





Above: Club 6's luncheons draw big crowds. Left: Club 6 members including President Marsha Stephens, center, build their ranks through good food and good fun.

Club 6 signs up at least two or three new members each month.

Ninety people attended its March meeting, and 86 were present in April. Members build the club's ranks through chili and barbecue cookoffs, luaus and a corn bust every August. Meetings also often feature community speakers.

"Word of mouth has had a lot to do with it," she said. "We post on Facebook, and call our members to see if they're coming to meetings so we can get them to stay actively involved. Plus, people say the food was really good, and they had a good time."