AN IMPORTANT CHANGE HAS BEEN MADE TO THE BMWE HEALTH AND WELFARE PLAN FOR OCCUPATIONALLY DISABLED MEMBERS

In a recent edition of the *Journal*, the Trustees of the BMWE Health and Welfare Plan for Occupationally Disabled Members announced that health coverage had been added under the Plan for surviving spouses and children of members who pass away while in railroad-provided lodging. That change took effect on May 1st of last year. After further consideration, the Plan’s Trustees have decided to begin providing coverage for an additional category of surviving dependents, as explained below. The federations participating in the Plan include: the Allied Federation (limited to those groups who participate in the Plan), the Southern System Division, and members of the former Nickel Plate-Wheeling & Lake Erie Federation.

**HEALTH BENEFITS ADDED FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF MEMBERS WHO PASS AWAY WHILE ON DUTY**

Medical coverage under the Plan has been expanded to cover the surviving spouses and children of members of participating federations who die while on duty. To be eligible, the member’s death must occur on or after April 1, 2016. Additionally, the deceased member must have had at least 12 months of compensated service in employment under the jurisdiction of the BMWED within the two years immediately preceding his death. This coverage for qualifying surviving spouses and children goes into effect as of August 1, 2016, or when any other railroad-affiliated coverage terminates, if later.

If you are aware of a surviving spouse and/or child who might qualify for this benefit, please pass this information along.

**Under current rules, this coverage is provided free of charge.**

*You can contact the administration office of the Plan for full details regarding this program at: 1(800) 831-4914.*