

James A. Stem Jr.

National Legislative Director

James A. Stem Jr., national legislative director of the 125,000-member Transportation Division of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, Transportation Union (SMART), was born, in Raleigh, N.C. the son of a school teacher and a railroad conductor.

Stem began his railroad career as a trainman for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad in Raleigh and has worked as a trainman, switchman, conductor, hostler helper, hostler, fireman and locomotive engineer and currently holds seniority as a locomotive engineer on CSX between Richmond, Va., and Florence, SC. Stem worked on the railroad during summer vacations while attending college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Stem has been working to find ways to improve rail operational safety, remove fatigue as a safety issue, and to improve freight and passenger rail services and public transportation options all of his career. He is an active member of the Federal Railroad Administration Rail Safety Advisory Committee.

Stem is active in the Baptist Church, the Masonic Lodge and civic mission groups. He and his wife Bonnie were blessed with three children, have four wonderful grandchildren and reside in Alexandria, Va.