
THE INSIDE TRACK

Newsletter publication of the *Indiana Transportation Museum*

Spring 2009

Indiana Transportation Museum Celebrates Our Volunteers Thanks to All the Wonderful Volunteers at Our Museum

Chairman's Corner

A New Journey And a Time of Change

We at the Indiana Transportation Museum have been presented with an opportunity. Our recent market research shows that 90% of the central Indiana population did not ride a train within the past year. However, 51% indicated an interest in passenger train activities. How are we going to position ourselves to capitalize on this untapped demand?

A second significant challenge for ITM is raising the funds necessary for this growth. We currently don't meet the criteria of institutional donors and we are not at present eligible for federal or state railway funds. ITM also does not have sufficient name recognition within the community at this time to garner large individual donations.

We are actively seeking solutions to these challenges. In an effort to improve our Board's ability to address these issues, we are formulating a plan to reorganize the Museum's structure. We are also addressing the need to populate the Board of Directors with community members who have fundraising abilities and connections. We must be able to present an organization that meets the professional requirements of institutional donors.

We have been very fortunate in benefiting from the generosity of the Business Law Firm of Lewis and Kappes, a prestigious Indianapolis law firm. The ITM business team is meeting bi-weekly with Tom Ristine, an L&K director, as he advises us and authors the legal documents required for our restructuring. Lewis and Kappes are providing this service at no cost to the Museum. We also continue to be guided by Marnie Maxwell, project facilitator and former Vice President for The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. We are confident that this professional team will lead the Museum into the 21st century.

Tom Ristine, our attorney, recommends that the Indiana Transportation Museum form two Limited Liability Corporations, one for railroad operations and another to own our assets (equipment and property). The purpose is to shield the Museum from liability and to protect our assets from involvement in liability issues. There are also numerous other advantages. The creation of railroad operation subsidiary will require us to document the organizational structure, decision processes and job descriptions. This will include developing procedures to better organize requirements and interactions between operations and event scheduling.

The creation of job descriptions will provide greater consistency in service, make training more consistent and make recruitment of new volunteers easier. The establishment of decision processes will allow improved management focus and will enhance the decision making process.

(Chairman's Corner continued on Page 2)

The responsibility for fundraising rests with the Museum's Board. In order to facilitate our projected growth, we need to populate the board with community members who have fundraising abilities and connections. We also need to be able to present an organization that meets the professional requirements of institutional donors.

This is a time of change for the Indiana Transportation Museum. We are at an important place in this journey. We have the opportunity to create a better organizational structure that will protect us and make us more attractive to donors. We will also create new tools that will make our operations run more smoothly and consistently while lessening volunteer burnout. This process will improve and expand the awareness of our institution, its offerings and its value. We look forward to taking this next step with all of the membership of the Indiana Transportation Museum.



Art Hall, Chairman of the Board of Directors. He also is a volunteer!

A Big "Thank You" to All Volunteers

T is for train crews with experience and training

H is for hours generously given

A is for attention to detail in restoration work

N is for a novel volunteer experience at the Indiana Transportation Museum

K is for knowledgeable mechanics who perceive machines as a resource

Y is for youth carrying forth the mission of the museum

O is for often--a frequency that brings satisfaction to museum volunteers

U is for uniformed conductors and coach attendants who professionally represent the Indiana Transportation Museum

Discover the Rail Way

That's right, it's back — and better than ever. Once again America will have the opportunity to show its love for trains. And what's not to love? Wherever you're going, the train is the nicer way to get there.

So mark May 9, 2009, on your calendar for a coast-to-coast celebration of the way trains connect people and places. In Washington, DC, Chicago, Philadelphia and Los Angeles there will be simultaneous National Train Day festivities that are sure to be a treat for all ages.

Check often for updates on this year's activities, promotions and entertainment events.

2009 Season, something old, something new
By Sarah Ferguson

The exciting new 2009 season is about to begin and we want to be sure you are part of it! We have many new trains for you to experience. Here are our new excursions:

The "A" Train

The Nickel Plate Limited

The Dinner or a Movie Train

We have improved some of your favorite trains as well:

Caboose Shuttles will run most Sundays

The Pizza Train is now the Pizza Plus Express with even more!

The Hamiltonian now departing on Saturday nights for your dining pleasure.

We have added some special event trains too:

"La Bella Donna" Mother's Day Train is your chance to treat Mom to a unique event in the State of Indiana!

Our popular Fireworks Train will have even more!

So, come check out the entire new schedule and start planning your volunteer participation. You don't want to miss all the great things there are to do right here at your museum.

The Indiana Transportation Museum Thanks Our Volunteers
Here are just a few.



Michelle Yerkeson volunteers for many activities at the Museum. She most recently negotiated the purchase of the NKP 587 steam engine from the City of Indianapolis, and is planning major events for the engines future.



Unless you volunteer in the Shops, you may have never met Bruce Jarrett. He volunteers as our Chief Mechanical Officer, and heads the program to keep our locomotives and rolling stock in operational order.



William Cate is one of our volunteer Coach Attendants. He is among a growing number of young people who have an interest in railroad history, and share their time at the Museum. Bringing new people, young or more mature, into our museum is the lifeblood of our continuing operation.



Lizzie St. Clair has spent countless hours in classroom and hands-on training to become a Conductor in the Rail Operations Department. She also volunteers on several committees.

[Train Crews: New Crew Calling Process!](#)

Ladies and Gentlemen: The museum has been receiving inquiries for a considerable number of trains on both weekends and during the week. In order to schedule the crews for these trains we need to know when you are available. Tom Nichols has agreed to volunteer as Crew Caller again this year. The Museum is going to adopt a process similar to the commercial railroads, a call board. Rail Operations volunteer names will be placed on the board, based on their employee number. Then the Crew Caller will go through the list to fill the needed positions. Once a person has either been assigned, or indicates they are not available, their names go to the bottom of the list, then rises up again. We hope this process will make Tom Nichols job much easier, and be a fair way to give everyone a chance to serve. We need to know if you are available during the week, or on weekends only, or both. Please send your availability to Tom Nichols so he can schedule the crews. If we do not hear from you we will assume that you are not available to work.

Tom's contact info is:

Email:

Phone: 317-417-7414

If you have any questions please contact any me.

Paul Meister - Director of Operations

paulmeister@att.net

If you wish to receive future newsletters electronically, please send your email address to:

itm-newsletter@hotmail.com

Comments, questions, or suggestions related to the monthly newsletter? If so, please forward them to itm-newsletter@hotmail.com or contact Sarah Ferguson at the ITM office at (317) 773-6000.

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