

THE RAILYARD DISPATCH

Volume 17, Issue 2 The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

March 2018



Shortlines



IN MEMORIUM

It is with sadness that we report the passing of three long-time members/volunteers.



Dave Lowry passed away on January 22, 2018. For many years, Dave was at the front desk on Thursdays and Saturdays greeting our visitors. He also held the title of Station Master, served on the Board of Directors,

was always there during our special events. He was also a regular volunteer at WMNR radio. Dave will be remembered for his knowledge of railroads, his sense of humor and his every-ready advice for getting more visitors into the Museum – “just drop the gate on White Street.”

share. He never left home without his camera, as evidenced by the numerous pictures and slides he amassed over the years and which he shared with members of the DRM at many of the weekly Wednesday night programs. Also a talented artist, Vic’s pictures have been on display at the Museum.



BUNNY CAR GETS A NEW TRAIN

When Jim Teer started thinking about creating a different train layout for the Easter Bunny car, Jose Alves and Dave Fuller “hopped” on it. The four-car O-gauge train consists of a donated BL-2 diesel, two colorful gondolas and a box car from Jose Alves' collection, as well as a recently added



caboose, customized by Dave Fuller. The layout replaces the G-scale layout that was previously in the car. The box car features the Easter Bunny

periodically popping his head up through the roof. The caboose, picked up by Dave at a recent model train show "for a song", was a very basic Lionel SP-style caboose.....until Dave worked his magic. In glorious pastel colors and a car number to match the holiday date (4118), the caboose makes a great addition to the train set. (Will the car number have to be repainted every year, guys??? – Editor)



Jeremy Rice, engineer, welder, sculptor, Blues harmonica/accordion player, teacher of Louisiana Cajun and Zydeco dances with his wife Laura were just a

few of Jeremy’s interests. Jeremy’s love of trains began at an early age in Baltimore, Maryland, and when he moved to New York, he came to Danbury to share his talents. Jeremy’s “Pigs” are on display in the Garden at the end of Track 18.



Vic Westman will long be remembered for his vast knowledge of railroading and the numerous stories about his railroading days that he loved to

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Danbury Railway Museum was held on March 14, 2018. There were 285 ballots mailed out and 82 were returned making a return rate of 28.5%, which is considered very good. We are happy to report that we received donations totaling \$3,790 donations along with the ballots.

Besides the election results announcement, each officer gave a report on their respective responsibilities for 2017.

Election results were announced by Secretary Steve Gould. There were five candidates for four Director positions. The four candidates elected to the Board were (left to right): Al Gruber, Bill Wagner, Don Konen, and Jeff Van Wagenen. Jeff and Don were reelected while Al and Bill are newcomers. Congratulations to all four. Board Members with terms expiring in 2019 are: Stan Madyda (President), Jim Teer (Vice President), Steve Gould (Secretary), Patty Osmer (Treasurer), Jose Alves, Justin Chapin, Mike Madyda, and Peter McLachlan.



Al Gruber is an avid and long-time railfan and has been volunteering behind the scenes at the Museum for many years; you can find him giving yard tours or catch him dressed in a red suit at Christmas. Al retired from Metro North after 38 years working for Metro North and its predecessors, Conrail and Penn Central. Starting as a lever man/telegrapher in GCT, he worked in numerous positions including block operator, tower operator, agent/operator, train dispatcher, and retired as a Rail Traffic Controller in the Metro North Operations Control Center.

Al believes that primary mission of the DRM should be to stabilize the collection of historical items and to move equipment in deteriorated condition to a location away from the public view. He also hopes to work on improving communication between the DRM and members should be improved, especially for those without computers.

Before running for the Board, **Bill Wagner** has been volunteering at the Museum for several years, assisting in numerous areas. Currently, he is Chairman of the Restoration Committee. He has worked on numerous carpentry and other projects for the Museum, can be found swinging a hammer during track work days, is qualified as a conductor on the Railyard Local, and fixed our aging snow blower! As well as continuing in his present volunteer duties, Bill will take Engineer training, and also plans to interact with new volunteers, helping them to get started with the Museum.



President Stan Madyda announced the winners of the Gandy Dancer Award for 2017 and they were Carolyn Taylor (pictured) and Franz Gerencir (who was not able to be present.) Both long-time volunteers at the Museum, Carolyn served as Newsletter Editor for many years as well as project manager for the #1455 steam locomotive. Franz has spent most of his time at the Museum working on the restoration of the NYC&HR wooden caboose. Congrats to Carolyn and Franz; your awards are well-deserved!

Before the meeting ended, Chairman Don Konen called for a moment of silence to remember and recognize departed members Dave Lowry, Jeremy Rice, and Vic Westman.

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

- After several months of inactivity, the Mill Plain Station move seems to be coming to an end. Our contractor, Salem Preservation, meet with all involved and it was decided the best way to move the station was to disassemble it. Work should start soon.
- For a time, it appeared that the Port of Albany would be purchasing the land surrounding the track that our four locomotives sit on, but their low ball offer was rejected. Local dissatisfaction on the amount of truck traffic going through neighborhoods to enter the Port could be resolved by access from where the railroad bridge was. Stay tuned.
- Work on the turntable timber replacement will resume once the weather gets a little better. Old timbers have been removed and remedial work has begun on the metal components of the table itself.
- We hope to have two new pieces in the yard by mid-year: New Haven MU 5111 and CDOT SPV business car 1001. Both privately owned and will rent space from us.
- We met with a consultant on Strategic Planning year paid for by a grant received from Connecticut Humanities. There is much work to do here we want to come up with a workable road map for the future.
- DRM Members continue to attend seminars and conventions offered by historical and cultural groups in Connecticut. We are also active with the Danbury Chamber of Commerce and City Center.
- WestConn continues to be a resource we use with students looking to do some intern and independent study work with us. There is also a new photo exhibit by photography students.

- Additional security cameras were added in the station and in the yard.
- Jose Alves is working on improving the signage and descriptions on interior exhibits. An Exhibits Committee was appointed with the first task of coming up with an overall plan on how we want to use the space in the station.

TREASURER'S REPORT

GENERAL FUND:

The General Fund consists of monies available for day-to-day operations. Monies come from general contributions, admissions, event proceeds, gift shop proceeds, membership, interest income, and building usage.

2017 INCOME:	\$135,716
2017 EXPENSE:	\$119,879

DIFFERENCE: \$ 15, 837

Each year the Board of Directors passes a balanced budget. Monies that are not spent on budgeted items are returned to the General Fund Surplus.

SURPLUS AT CLOSE OF YEAR: \$402,373

TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND:

These funds consist of donations earmarked for a specific project. Monies come from ear-marked donations and grants. At the close of 2017 there were 26 such funds.

INCOME:	\$31,950
EXPENSE:	\$25,535

FUND BALANCE AT CLOSE OF YEAR:
\$150,713

A detailed report available on request. Email news4drm@gmail.com and ask for a copy, or call the Museum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Meetings take place the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Museum members may attend these meetings.

ARTICLE SUBMISSION

Please contact us with submissions:

Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum
Attention: Newsletter
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Phone: 203-778-8337; Fax: 203-778-1836

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

NEWS4DRM@GMAIL.COM

If you have an idea for an article, please let us know that, also.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF
YOUR MAILING OR EMAIL
ADDRESS CHANGES**

If moving, please send your new address to:

Danbury Railway Museum,
Attention: Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813
Via Email to: drmmembers@aol.com

OPERATING CREW MEMBERS NEEDED

We need more Operating Crew members to fill out our roster. Can you help? Here's the process:

1. Make sure your DRM membership is current.
2. Obtain a copy of the Safety Rules from the Chief Safety Officer,
DavidFuller06484@yahoo.com.
3. Obtain a copy of the current Operating Rules from the Superintendent of Operations,
jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com.

4. Arrange with Chief Safety Officer to take, and pass Safety Rules exam.
5. Arrange with Superintendent of Operations to take, and pass Operations Exam.
6. Superintendent of Operations will add you to the operating crew roster which will get you on the email list for the crew schedule.
7. Once you are on the crew roster, email or call the scheduled Conductor or Engineer to see if you can train with them on each particular day you are available to train.
8. Bring your Book of Rules, and have Trainer sign that you trained with them.

You must be willing to commit to serving on the crew once you are qualified. Don't train if you are unable to do so. You must be at least 18 years old to qualify as a Conductor, and you must be a qualified Conductor before you can begin training as an Engineer.

There are no fixed number of days required for training. When your trainers (and you) feel you are ready, you will be checked out by both the Superintendent of Operations and the Chief Mechanical Officer. You are not qualified until signed off by both the Superintendent and Chief Mechanical Officer.

While you are training, please also help out in other operations areas whenever you can. This includes car hosting, track work projects, and other equipment restorations projects. Don't leave these things up to others. We are the others!

Jeff Van Wagenen
Superintendent of Operations



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