

THE RAILYARD DISPATCH

Volume 19, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

Jan/Feb/Mar 2019

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION



The Annual Meeting of the Danbury Railway Museum was held on March 20, 2019. The meeting was preceded by a brief video on Local Action on the Housatonic Railroad, by Eoin Kavanagh. Thanks, Eoin, for sharing your video with us!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (STAN MADYDA):

At long last, after many delays, the Mill Plain Station was delivered to the railyard. It had been our hope to move the station in one piece, but there seemed to be more complications doing it this way. The decision was made to dismantle the walls and ship them on a flatbed. Work on reconstructing the station will begin this spring. The station gives us many options on what we can do with the space.

Work on the turntable continued. Timbers have been removed and new ones milled so the rail can rest on them. Also, remedial work on the metal itself was done. This has proven to be a very labor intensive project.

The former New York Central electrics are still ours and we hope that they will someday be in Danbury. The Port of Albany has entered into an agreement to purchase the land which surrounds the electrics for development. This could be very good news as access will have to be constructed to the site, making the movement easier.

Over the last several months, I have been in discussions with Metro North and CT Department of Transportation regarding the possible donation of a locomotive and some rail cars. There are people with both organizations that realize the historic value of their equipment.

While still in very preliminary stages, there is a foundation that would like to help us financially on an ongoing basis. They see the importance of the museum and what we are doing and would like to help us grow even further.

Restoration and cosmetic work continues on a number of pieces in our collection including the Tonawanda Valley, the 1455, the FL-9, the Canadian National cars, NYC wooden caboose, the EL caboose, the Railyard coaches and locomotives.

Two cars owned by Orion Newall-Vuillemot are in the yard. What is different from the past is that we now have written agreements in place for privately owned equipment in the yard.

The Exhibits Committee has made several recommendations to the board on improving the overall exhibit experience. The model layouts will be re-done. There is also new signage for the existing exhibits and some new exhibits thanks to Jose Alves.

The late Vic Westman's vast collection is now part of the museum and it has already been accessed by an author interested in his photos on the NYC Harlem Line. In addition to the Westman collection, the museum continues to receive a wide range of donations. In order to properly house everything an available to researchers, we are looking to partner with the Danbury Museum and Historical Society for additional space.

During the summer, our RDC #32 was moved to New Milford to participate in the Fair Days Weekend. The Housatonic Railroad provided free transportation and this may be repeated in 2019.

Our events did very well during the year with many pleased visitors. The Events Committee continues to look at new venues and enhancement to the current.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the museum in the last 12 months financially and/or donating time at the museum. Without these commitments, we would not see the progress we have made.

SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS (JEFF VANWAGENEN):

The Danbury Railway Museum completed another successful year of operations, and my sincerest thanks go out to our operating crew, and all of our other museum volunteers that made this possible. In 2018, we ran 96 days of train service for our visitors. Additionally, we had several “Hands on the Throttle” events and switching sessions to rearrange exhibits.

Primary power in 2018 was 44-tonner 1399, and RS1 0673. Budd 32 was used for Santa trains. The radiator replacement for SW8 Number was completed, however she remained out-of service pending repair of one power assembly. Justin Chapin, our Chief Mechanical Officer, did a great job keeping us going. Thanks!

Turntable reconstruction continues, and will be completed in 2019. Milling of the new timbers is slow and tedious work. Jim Teer has taken the lead on this, and has had help from Bill Wagner, Don Konen and myself. We are anxious to complete this work.

Tom McCullough again ran successful a “Hands on the Throttle” program, and we hope to continue this program. We qualified Mike Laporta as a qualified Engineer, and Mike and brother Joe helped out considerably this season.

We are still stretched for Engineers and Conductors, track workers, mechanical department volunteers and car hosts, and we are “net” down again in participating volunteers. We welcome newcomers; please pass the word, and consider volunteering as you are able.

SECRETARY’S REPORT (STEVE GOULD):

Tom McCullough and I represented DRM at ConnJam 2018, sponsored by the CT Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America on May 12, 2018, in Orange, CT – a very rainy day indeed. We networked with many troops, some of which scheduled Railroad Merit Badge visits to DRM. There were 3,000 scouts in attendance.

I gave presentations about DRM and other topics to Danbury Lions Club, the New Fairfield Senior Center Men’s Group, and the Trumbull Library during 2018.

In May, DRM hosted approximately 300 Danbury elementary school students and teachers on three successive Wednesdays. We have done this for the past several years in partnership with the Danbury History Museum.

I wrote an article on the completion of the Tonawanda Valley restoration for the NY Central System Historical Society’s publication, Headlights for their May 2019 issue. Project Manager Art Slothower will be on the cover! (Art’s very happy he didn’t have to pose for a centerfold shot!) This the third article to appear in Headlights about the restoration of the car.

A wedding party of 14 took photos at DRM in October. They posed on three pieces of equipment in the yard and the shoot (still and video) took approximately two hours. We do have a suggested donation fee for this service.

Students from the NYU Film Department shot scenes for a student movie production for college credit in December in Orion Newall-Vuillemot’s SPV2000.

ELECTION RESULTS

292 ballots were mailed out, 80 were received. The rate of return of 27.4% is in keeping with past elections. Re-elected were Stan Madyda (President), Jim Teer (Vice President), Steve Gould (Secretary), Jose’ Alves and Justin Chapin (Directors). New Director John Barton was also elected. We received \$1,715 in donations along with the returned ballots. There are two vacancies on the Board: the Officer position of Treasurer, and one Director position. The Board will appoint people to fill these positions. If you, or anyone you know, is

interested in holding one of these positions, please contact the Museum at info@danburyrail.org, by mail, attention Nominating Committee, or by phone (203.778.8337).

GANDY DANCER AWARD



The Gandy Dancer Award was conceived by the late John Flower, one of the founders and Directors of the Museum, as a way to recognize members for their dedication and service to the Museum. This year’s award went to Frank Sullivan. For approximately 20 years, Frank has served as our Membership Chairman and recently retired from the post. Unlike other organizations where membership is based on the calendar year, handling the DRM’s membership is an ongoing job. Renewal notices are sent out on a monthly basis and new membership processed. Frank and his wife Mary have also assisted at various children’s events held over the years. The Museum would like to thank Frank for his years of service and dedication in handling our membership duties.

TREASURER’S REPORT (PATTY OSMER)

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

The General Operating Fund is what is used to pay the Museum's day-to-day bills. Each January, a balanced budget is approved by the Board of Directors. Income above and beyond normal operating expenses are budgeted to go into Asset Restoration/Preservation.

INCOME	2018	2017	EXPENSE	
Events	49,353	47,540	Accounting/Legal/Insurance	18,626 20,786
General Admission	56,167	52,131	Advertising/Printing/Postage	6,463 6,568
Membership	9,740	8,630	Asset Restoration/Preservation	4,239 17,719
General Contrib.	7,916	2,417	Exhibits	806 0
Interest Income	160	169	General Maint. & Supplies	12,347 11,822
Other	2,725	2,175	Locomotive Operations	5,107 3,333
	\$153,082	\$135,716	Misc (Misc, Fees, etc)	6,421 6,213
			Utilities (Gas, Elec, Tel, Refuse)	38,701 36,439
			Yard, Maintenance Equip, Rentals	6,345 8,474
			Security	326
			Acquisitions	33,094 8,525
				\$132,475 \$119,879
			NET ORDINARY INCOME:	\$ 20,607 \$ 15,837

TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND

Temporary Restricted Funds are accounts where monies are earmarked for a specific purpose. The majority of money in these funds comes from donations or grants.

INCOME: 31,950 EXPENSES: 25,535

FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/18: \$ 150,713.05

1402	13,675.03	NH Box Cars	774.75
1455	10,166.83	NH Caboose Paint	1,250.00
Burro Crane	4,183.08	NH Cab Roofwalk	1,000.00
Coach Repair	2,000.00	NYCHR Caboose	1,984.55
D&H Caboose	1,275.00	RDC	9,578.29
Electrics	7,786.90	Rutland Misc	971.00
Jeff Scott	2,880.96	Rutland Boxcar	3,823.01
John Ivansco	615.00	Shop	52,140.82
Library	18,509.67	Strategic Planning	3,006.80
Meserve - Video	415.31	Tonawanda Valley	3,405.35
Meserve - Security	427.82	Tools	200.00
Mill Plain Station	4,506.00	Track	479.23
Model Layouts	3,291.95	Turntable	2,365.70

ANNOUNCEMENTS

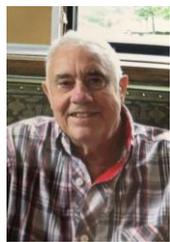
IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of two long-time members.

Ira Pollack passed away on January 16, 2019. Ira was an avid lover of trains, a firefighter, a musician, and was President of the Museum for over a decade. Ira could tame any kind of vehicle, and could often be seen driving the backhoe around the rail yard. Ira, rest in peace.



Marty Grossman passed away suddenly on Feb. 25, 2019 at the age of 81. Marty could fix anything that was electrical or mechanical, and could be seen with his trusty red tool box on Tuesday evenings prowling around the Museum's various layouts. Marty served on the Board of Directors and was chairman of the Museum's Building Committee. We will miss Marty's dry sense of humor and his willingness to help out.



BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETINGS

Meetings take place the **third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm**. Museum members are welcome to attend.

ALL NEWSLETTERS FROM 2001 TO PRESENT CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE,
WWW.DANBURYRAILWAYMUSEUM.ORG

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

IF YOU CAN HELP US IN ANY OF THE AREAS BELOW, PLEASE EMAIL

**(info@danburyrail.org)
OR CALL US (203.778.8337)**

GIFT SHOP/FRONT DESK

We need Gift Shop & Front Desk staff. If you can volunteer even ½ day a week, we need you.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We need a Newsletter Editor so that we can keep the **Railyard Dispatch** going.

OPERATIONS CREW/CAR HOSTS

We need conductors and engineers; training will be provided by an experienced crew member. Must be at least 18 years old. We also need car hosts to ride with our visitors on the train; must be at least 14.



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