

# The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 15, Issue 3

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

April - May 2016

## 2016 DRM Annual Meeting & Election Results

Members gather for annual meeting



President Wade Roese addresses the members gathered at the annual meeting.

At the annual meeting of the Danbury Railway Museum held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Museum, Chairman of the Board Don Konen acted as master of ceremonies and introduced the four Officers and Superintendent of Operations, each of whom gave an annual report. Don called on the speakers in the same order as he does at each board meeting with President Wade Roese speaking first. Wade was followed by Secretary Steve Gould, then (the absent) Vice President Stan Madyda's report was read by Steve Gould; Patty Osmer, Treasurer; and finally Superintendent of Operations Jeff Van Wagenen. Don also gave a report at the end on behalf of the Chief Mechanical Officer, Justin Chapin. Food, provided by Wade and Don, included finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers, spinach dip, several desserts and punch. Approximately two dozen members attended. The following are each speaker's reports.

Wade spoke first and talked about the various donations that the Museum had received in the past year and donations that were in the works. He also spoke about the Museum's involvement in the StEPs-CT program, which the Museum has completed several modules, and how the Officers learned a great deal about what we're doing right and some things that

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## Members Attend Training Sessions & Take Tests

By Jeff Van Wagenen, Superintendent of Operations and Steve Gould, Secretary

On the Saturdays of March 12<sup>th</sup> & April 2<sup>nd</sup>, DRM members took the safety exam and attended training sessions for operating crew and/or car host/tour guide. The following is what Jeff and Steve had to say about this year's training sessions.

Each year, the Superintendent of Operations administers the rules examination for volunteers who serve in train operations as Conductors, Engineers and Brakemen. The annual Safety Rules and Operating Rules Examinations were conducted on March 12<sup>th</sup> of this year. Thirteen crew members took the exam, and subsequent to the exam, an additional three crew members who could not make the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting have completed the exam.

Before the exam, we conducted a review of the rules, particularly those appearing on the exam. Crew members took turns around the room reading specific rules aloud and then discussing that rule as necessary. The exam was then administered "closed book". Following completion of the exam, exam papers were distributed to crew members, with no crew member getting his own paper. Then we went around the room with each crew member reading a question and the answer provided on the exam. Discussion followed as to whether the question was answered correctly. This approach insured that each question and answer was thoroughly examined and understood.

As the administrator of the exam, I was very pleased with both the process and the results. We had the opportunity to review our practices, and our day-to-day experiences over the prior operating season. Many of the questions on the exam were deliberately tricky, and required considerable thought. The group did exceptionally well.

Incidentally, if you are interested in training to

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## New Members

We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members, as well as the general public, are welcome to attend the weekly meetings and free programs held Wednesdays, 7:30pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities!

**Have you noticed?** The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership (recent renewals may not have new date on label). Life Members do not have an expiration date.

Kathryn C. Metz	Ossining, NY
John Antunovich	Danbury, CT
Edward Smith	Wingdale, NY
Kathy Chartier	Danbury, CT
Eric Baumgartner	Redding, CT
Keyes Winter	Weston, CT
Matthew Feeney	Waccabuc, NY
Heather Amaral	New Milford, CT
Lucas Zachary Rink	Brookfield, CT
Michael Cromwell	Danbury, CT
Matthew Savino	Danbury, CT

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## Upcoming Events at the DRM

### May 8<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day

Mothers ride **free** with child's paid admission.

### June 11<sup>th</sup> - Steel & Wheels Car Show

The Danbury Railway Museum presents the Steel & Wheels car show to benefit the Appalachia Service Project of Danbury.

General admission is **\$10** for visitors ages 3 and up (under 3 years free) and includes admission to Museum, car show, train rides, and exhibits and displays in our historic 1903 Station and railyard.

If you would like to enter your car, the show car price is **\$10**. Goodie bags and dash plaques will be given to the first 100 cars. There will be a special owners and people's choice award.

Registration starts at 8:30am and show cars must enter off Patriot Drive by the Metro-North Station (west side of Metro-North parking lot).

Call 203-778-8337 or email [info@danburyrail.org](mailto:info@danburyrail.org) for more information.

Rain date: June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### June 19<sup>th</sup> - Father's Day

Fathers ride **free** with child's paid admission.

Special **caboose train** operating!

### June 26<sup>th</sup> - Teacher's Day

Teachers ride **free** with paid admission.

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## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

The DRM was a busy place in the spring of 2006. The Museum successfully secured The Little Engine That Could event for June. Based on Watty Piper's book of the same name, this event was replacing the popular Day Out with Thomas. To help welcome The Little Engine and guests, daughters of one of our members made a quilt from material they found at a quilting show which was on display at the main entrance to the Station.

With all four coaches needed for the Little Engine train rides, a dedicated crew set out to clean then both inside and out. Some of the roofs were tarred and the interiors repainted. The cars were cleaned and prepped when they arrived in 1996 and this project was the first major work since then. A PA system was also going to be installed for the coaches.

The popular Hammer-In event was held in April. Local blacksmiths and artists skilled in metal work set up portable forges and display areas in the yard. The DRM's former New Haven Railroad forge was also fired up. There was even a spot where guests could try their hand at blacksmithing.

Also on tap for the season was the return of the Jeep Rendezvous scheduled for July. In 2005, 166 Jeeps of all sizes were on display throughout the yard and prizes were given in various categories.

In the yard, major work was being done on the SW-8, Budd Car #32 and the RPO car. Corrosion needed to be cleaned out of the engine compartment of the SW-8 and a leaky radiator repaired. The Budd Car had been a reliable performer, but it was decided that it was time to change out the batteries. The repairs on both units were expensive, but were needed to keep operations going. The RPO car was having some holes patched up and window replacement continued.



The Little Engine That Could getting ready for a run. Did it make it? Yes, of course it did silly! Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor.



# 2016 Easter Bunny Express Trains, By Sue Teer

The Easter Bunny was at the Museum for four days in March and all the children had time for a nice visit with him after their train ride in the yard. The #32 Budd Car had new decorations and we had new bunny blow-ups in the yard (including a bunny in his carrot car). The good news is that we had beautiful weather and lots of crowds, the most we have seen in years.

Thanks to all who helped make this a success!



Above photo courtesy of Philip Beard



Photo courtesy of Robert Boothe





## DRM Annual Meeting & Election Results, *Continued from Page 1*

need attention and improvement. The last thing that Wade talked about was the great number of volunteer hours that our members have put in to keep this Museum going. He mentioned that a new process would be put in place so members could document their volunteer hours, which would help the Museum keep track of how many hours are being volunteered so we could use that information to help in our efforts to obtain various grants. Without our dedicated volunteers, he noted, the DRM wouldn't be where it's at now.



Secretary Steve Gould presents his report to the members during the annual meeting.

Next was Steve Gould who gave his report. **1.** Election Results: 65 valid ballots received vs 348 sent out (libraries excluded in this number) equaled an 18.7% return rate. In 2015, the return rate was 18.3% and in 2014, 22.6%. The lowest return rate was in 2005 with 17%. Oh yes, all four candidates were elected to the Board! No one candidate received all 65 votes, which ranged from 63 to 53 votes per candidate. The by-law change passed by a vote of 58 yes to 7 no. There were \$705 in donation checks received. **2.** In 2015, we received a \$2,000 Heritage Grant from Amherst Railway Society for the Burro Crane; and a \$2,200 grant from the Meserve Memorial Foundation for new computers, software, and credit card chip readers for both cash registers. **3.** In March, a Car Host and Tour Guide training session and refresher course was held. This year's session will take place on April 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 10 AM. **4.** In May, we had 28 Boy Scouts and 8 adult leaders from three troops participating in a Railroading Merit Badge program. We have another troop coming here in April. **5.** In May, ABC New Haven affiliate WTNH sent News 8 Reporter Josh Scheinblum to the Museum to get comments about the Amtrak #188 accident at Frankford Junction in PA. Wade and I answered questions about the accident and safety in general. The piece aired that evening on the news. **6.** Wade and I attended a question and answer session run by students at Hayestown Avenue Elementary School in Danbury. **7.** In December, we submitted the *Tonawanda Valley* restoration to the CT League of History Organizations for an Award of Merit. As you remember, we received a similar award for the RPO a few years ago. We were notified of an Honorable Mention award. **8.** Renewed another year of insurance for the Museum which includes liability, property, accident, umbrella, and Directors and Officers coverage. Our annual insurance bill runs just over \$18,000 a year. **9.** Wade and I spoke at the Association of Law Enforcement Museums in Uncasville, CT in October. I remember it very well – I left my headlights on and found a dead battery when it was time to leave! Duh!!! **10.** A grant application was filed with the Mystic Railway Society in November to cover the outsourcing of prep and painting of the RS11.

Then Steve gave the absent Vice President's report. Little progress has been made on moving the New York Central electrics off the property in Glenmont, NY. Our consultant continues to work on the project but the delay has been in getting the necessary contractors lined up and their equipment available. Ideally, the ground should be frozen for some of the lifting equipment to more easily access the site. A visit to the equipment needs to be made within the next month to oil the journals, re-post no trespassing signage and clean brush around the units. Paul Marsh continues to be our eyes and ears in Glenmont. Another piece of equipment we are scheduled to receive as a donation this year is a 1929 New York Central MU car currently in Indiana. This is being made possible by the same person who is working with us on the electrics. Last summer we were successful in the bidding process to receive a former Erie Lackawanna caboose which is currently in the yard. As I mentioned in my newsletter article, this was different than bidding on Ebay. Several other pieces of equipment have been considered but there is no confirmation that we will be getting them. In the Library, there were 50 donations received including a very large one from the Estate of Richard Bonelli. A project is being worked on that will get our book holdings in order so they can be listed on a statewide website enabling researchers to know what we have. A \$1,000 grant was received from the Savings Bank of Danbury for a professional grade scanner so that we can start digitizing our photo collection. The sale of duplicate books through the Gift Shop and Amazon continues to provide funding. I continue to take advantage of networking opportunities with the Chamber of Commerce, Connecticut League of History Organizations and with other local and railroad organizations. Good contacts have been made that may someday be beneficial to the DRM. The StEPs program continues to move along and each meeting we attend seems to yield some valuable ideas for the DRM. The next segment has to do with Collections which should provide a lot of good information. The building continues to have issues with heating and air conditioning, but this year it seems like they were not as severe as previous years.

**4** Next, Patty Osmer gave her financial report (*please see pages 6 & 7 of this issue*). 2015 showed a decrease in overall income compared to 2014 and an increase in our two most expensive categories, *Continued on Page 5*

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## DRM Annual Meeting & Election Results, *Continued from Page 4*



Treasurer Patty Osmer gives her report to the assembled members during the annual meeting.

insurance and utilities. The dramatic reduction in the cost of diesel fuel gave us some off-setting relief. In spite of overall higher expenses and lower income, we were able to purchase a much-needed power washer and make a 50% down payment on the cost of a security system for the yard and Station and remain within our operating budget. The Board voted to move \$8,000 from our Reserve Funds to the 2015 General Fund to cover the purchase and move of the D&H Caboose.

Then Jeff Van Wagenen gave his annual report of operations for 2015. 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 2015, we ran 96 days of train service for our visitors. This included our special event Bunny trains, Pumpkin Patch trains and Santa trains, as well as several other special events on weekdays and weekends. We were able to get volunteers to operate trains on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day, and we ran eight days of trains to accommodate the entire third grade from the

Danbury public school system. Our trips for the third grade resulted in great publicity and public relations for our Museum. We utilized the 44-tonner #1399, SW-8 #1, RS1 #0673 and RDC Budd Car #32 at various times during our operating season. Operations cannot happen without the work of our Mechanical Department and our Track Department. Our Chief Mechanical Officer, Justin Chapin, kept our locomotives and cars running, and our Track Superintendent, Jim Teer, kept our track together. Their contributions cannot be over-emphasized. Jim did get some help in June when we scheduled a track work week. We had a good turnout of volunteers for the week, with continued track projects throughout the summer. Track work on track 42 proceeded west all summer, and was completed in time for our Pumpkin Patch trains last fall. This allowed the trains to operate all the way to the end of track 42. There is more track work to do, and we will plan another track work week later this summer. I am happy to report that there were no derailments, train cancellations or injuries in 2015, and we once again had a record of 100% on-time performance. I define "on-time performance" as "the last train returns passengers to the Station before the yard gate is closed and locked for the night." We qualified one new crew member, Bill Wagner, in 2015 and hope to qualify at least two new crew members in 2016. We are always in need of additional crew members, track workers, mechanical department volunteers and car hosts. If you were one of the crew that helped last year, a big THANK YOU goes out to you! We'll be doing it all again in 2016, starting March 19<sup>th</sup> with the Easter Bunny trains, so if you can help out in any of these capacities, please let me know.

Finally, Don gave the CMO's report and applauded our CMO Justin Chapin and mechanical crew for getting four locomotives running at the same time last year (*listed above*). He said a big Thank You! goes out to them for keeping our trains rolling.

Last, but not least, Steve welcomed the DRM's new Board member, Marty Grossman, who received a nice round of applause. Welcome aboard Marty!



Superintendent of Operations Jeff Van Wagenen gives his report to the members during the annual meeting.

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## Members Attend Training Sessions & Take Tests, *Continued from Page 1*

become a crew member, you do not have to wait until next year to take the exam! Let me know, and we will make arrangements for the exam as well as a training schedule.

On April 2, 2016, a refresher Car Host and Tour Guide training session was conducted in the Museum office. While lightly attended, there were some lively discussions. Secretary Steve Gould, who conducted the session, started off with a "Railroad Movie Trivia Quiz" which consisted of ten statements about a particular film and the attendees guessing the title. This was followed by a series of customer service quotes since Car Hosts and Tour Guides are always interacting with our guests. For instance, Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com has said, "If you build a great experience, customers tell each other about that. Word of mouth is very powerful." And L.L. Bean CEO Leon Gorman has said, "Customer service is just a day in, day out, ongoing, never ending, unremitting, persevering, compassionate type of activity." A British Airways VP, David

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# DRM Annual Financial Report

By Patty Osmer, DRM Treasurer

## Fund Results for Year 2015

### 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/Maintenance and Improvements.

			2015 % of Income/ Expense
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>	
Events	\$46,801	\$48,289	36.1
General Admission	\$48,188	\$48,516	37.2
Sales (less cost of goods)	\$21,000	\$23,746	16.2
Membership	\$10,610	\$11,559	8.2
General Contributions	\$2,471	\$1,919	1.9
Interest Income	\$157	\$659	0.1
Other	\$400	\$6,725	0.3
<b>GROSS PROFIT:</b>	<b>\$129,627</b>	<b>\$141,413</b>	
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Accounting & Legal	\$4,975	\$4,975	4.00
Advertising	\$9,368	\$7,983	7.54
Asset Restoration/Preservation	\$4,128	\$7,523	3.32
Credit Card Fees	\$3,443	\$3,363	2.77
Equipment Rental	\$2,769	\$2,749	2.23
Exhibits	\$938	\$935	0.75
General Maint. & Supplies	\$11,827	\$11,937	9.51
Insurance	\$20,601	\$16,680	16.57
Locomotive Operations	\$5,369	\$10,533	4.32
Misc (Misc, Fees, etc)	\$5,373	\$4,959	4.32
Printing/Publications/Postage	\$5,927	\$2,830	4.77
Utilities (Gas, Electric, Tel, Refuse)	\$39,460	\$36,453	31.74
Yard & Maintenance Equip	\$10,144	\$974	8.16
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$124,322</b>	<b>\$118,663</b>	
Asset Acquisition (D&H Caboose)	\$8,010		
Security System	\$4,650		
<b>NET ORDINARY INCOME(LOSS):</b>	<b>\$(7,355)</b>	<b>\$29,519</b>	

**Fund Results for Year 2015**

**TEMPORARY RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE**

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

**INCOME**

Donations & Grants           \$23,504

**EXPENSES**

\$12,820

**FUND BALANCE AS OF 12/31/15:**

1402	\$13,675.03
1455	\$8,518.16
Burro Crane	\$4,876.92
Coach Repair	\$2,000.00
Electrics	\$4,781.90
Jeff Scott	\$2,175.00
Library	\$13,984.94
Meserve - Video	\$415.31
Model Layouts	\$2,063.22
NH Box Cars	\$774.75
NH Caboose Paint	\$250.00
NH Cab Roofwalk	\$1,000.00
NYCHR Caboose	\$2,336.22
RDC	\$11,239.86
RPO	\$294.99
Rutland Misc	\$971.00
Rutland Boxcar	\$3,823.01
Shop	\$47,450.33
Tamper	\$2,475.00
Tonawanda Valley	\$5,637.23
Tools	\$200.00
Track	\$1,103.13
Turntable	\$995.39
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$131,041.39</b>

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*Members Attend Training Sessions & Take Tests, Continued from Page 5*

Porter, is quoted as saying, "Customers don't expect you to be perfect. They do expect you to fix things when they go wrong." Following this, Steve reiterated the things all Car Hosts and Tour Guides are expected to do with the first item on the list, which is keeping our guests safe. Handouts included a factual listing of equipment in the yard customers would see or visit in the railyard and onboard emergency instructions.

Due to the low attendance, another training session will be conducted in the near future.





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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

- |       |                 |   |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| April | 20(7:30pm)      | Canadian National Steam & Misc. - Peter McLachlan               |
| April | 21(7:00pm)      | Board Meeting - Open to Members                                 |
| April | 27(7:30pm)      | The FL-9 Story - Dan Foley                                      |
| May   | 4(7:30pm)       | NYC in New England - Carl Liba                                  |
| May   | 11(7:30pm)      | To Be Announced   |
| May   | 18(7:30pm)      | To Be Announced   |
| May   | 19(7:00pm)      | Board Meeting - Open to Members                                 |
| May   | 25(7:30pm)      | To Be Announced   |
| May   | 30 Memorial Day | Day - Summer hours begin.<br><b>Open 12-4 with train rides.</b> |
| June  | 1(7:30pm)       | Pacific Great Eastern - Carl Liba                               |
| June  | 8(7:30pm)       | To Be Announced   |

**Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4**

**After Memorial Day: Mon-Fri 10-4; Sat 10-5; Sun 12-5**

See the newsletter in color at: [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)



### Contact Information

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Attention: Newsletter

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### **Change of Address:**

If moving, please send your new address to:

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Attention: Membership Chairman

PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813

Via Email to: [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)