

# The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 16, Issue 1

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

January - February 2017

## DRM Elections 2017

Election time is here for the Danbury Railway Museum! A special election mailing has been sent out that is devoted to your membership privilege of voting for candidates for the four Director positions whose terms expire this year, and for the four Officer positions whose terms also expire this year. Enclosed in the mailing you will find candidate resumes for these positions. Vote for your selections and cut off the portion of the voting page along the dotted line and use the enclosed envelope to return your ballot to the Museum. Note that there are candidates who are running for both an Officer and a Director position. Per our bylaws, this is handled in this way:

**No person may serve simultaneously as an elected Officer (and thus an automatic member of the Board of Directors) and as an elected member of the Board of Directors. Should a person run for and be elected to both positions, that person shall assume the position of Officer, and the person with the next highest number of votes shall assume the position on the Board of Directors.**

In addition to your vote, we hope you will consider making a donation to the Museum to help us relocate the Mill Plain Station to the railyard; more information on this project is enclosed in the mailing. To donate, fill in the information requested and include the lower section with your check in the envelope with your ballot. Thank you for your support!

Please submit your ballot using the following procedures:

1. Mark your ballot with your choices, cut off, and return it in the enclosed return envelope to the Danbury Railway Museum, Attention: Secretary Steve Gould, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813-0090. It must arrive by **7:30pm, Wednesday, March 15, 2017** (the Annual Meeting). Ballots received after this date and time **will not** be counted!
2. The return envelope must show your member number and/or your name in the upper left hand corner. You can find your member number on your membership card.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please contact Steve Gould, Secretary, at 1-203-929-4368, or GouldSL@aol.com. Thank You!

## In This Issue:

- ~ Upcoming Event at the DRM - Page 2
- ~ DRM Board Motions Passed in 2016 - Pages 3 - 4
- ~ 2016 Santa Express Trains - Pages 5 - 8
- ~ Words from Our President - Page 9
- ~ DRM at the Annual Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show - Page 10
- ~ 2017 DRM Schedule of Events - Page 11
- ~ Superintendent of Operations Report - Page 12
- Plus . . . New Members & Ten Years Ago

## Safety, Crew Exams, Car Host and Tour Guide Training Scheduled

The following 2017 DRM qualifying exams and training sessions are offered to our volunteers, who must be DRM members paid in full, as follows:

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Safety Exam: 10:00am. For ALL volunteers working in the yard.**

**Crew Exam: Immediately after safety exam. For ALL current and potential crew members.**

**Current qualifications expire 6/30/2017.** If you can't make it, please let Jeff Van Wagenen know and he will make other arrangements for you (*please see Superintendent of Operations report on page 12 for contact info*).

**Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Car Host/Tour Guide Training: 10:00am. For ALL current and potential car hosts and tour guides which must be completed before working on DRM trains or giving tours. Will cover duties of each position.**

These exams and training sessions are given annually to qualify for each position. Safety of our guests is "Job One" and the exams or training sessions reinforce the things we need to keep in mind. Please plan to attend them. They will be conducted in the Museum's Station.

Questions? For Safety Exam, contact John O'Hern, Safety Officer. For Crew Exam, contact Jeff Van Wagenen, Superintendent of Operations. For Car Host and Tour Guide Training, contact Steve Gould. Thank you and we hope to see you there!

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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.

Warren Mino	Brookfield, CT
Richard W. Stula	Berlin, CT
Ann Lansing	Mt. Kisco, NY

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## Upcoming Event at the DRM

### 2017 Easter Bunny Express Trains!

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>

Before long, the Easter Bunny will be here! Ride a vintage train through our ten-acre railyard and visit the Easter Bunny in the spring season-decorated RDC #32 and Bunny event car! Every child will receive a small gift from the Bunny!

**Reservations are strongly recommended!** You can reserve online at [danburyrailwaymuseum.org](http://danburyrailwaymuseum.org), or you can call 1-203-778-8337. The \$12 admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes train ride, exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated Station. There will also be a coloring station, play area, operating model layouts, temporary tattoos and more!

Trains will be running every **half-hour from 12:30pm - 3:30pm**. The Museum will be open Friday & Saturday 10am - 4:30pm and Sunday 12noon - 4:30pm.

If you are a member and would like to help during the event and/or for setup/take-down, please contact Sue at the Station on Fridays or Saturdays at: 1-203-778-8337. A train ride to see the Easter Bunny is just the event to brighten up the holiday for families' toddlers and small ones!



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor

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## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, President

With the new year, many projects that were planned began once the weather got warmer. Despite the cold temperatures, the RPO restoration crew continued to work on the car with the help of a propane heater. They were able to complete refurbishing the floor, the registered mail cage and some mail sack storage locations. They also began to work on 45 "paper box" doors, each one consisting of 10 individual pieces. Missing were eight drawers that were located under the long counter. Fortunately, one remained that was used as a pattern.

The Museum received a \$4,500 grant from the Meserve Fund for the purchase of a new computer and upgrades for three others. Part of the grant was also to be used for the Past Perfect software program that would aid in cataloging the Archive Collection.

An independent videographer came in to make a documentary on the Museum that was to air on the Charter Cable local access channel. The documentary included interviews with members and a tour of the yard.

We were able to help out a fellow museum with an upcoming exhibit they were doing on railroads. The director of the Thomas Paine Cottage in New Rochelle, NY, had been visiting the DRM when we learned that he was planning a small exhibit to show how the railroad impacted New Rochelle. In need of some artifacts, the DRM was able to loan several items from our collection.

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## Wanted: You!

Calling all volunteers to make us the best railway museum we can be! Needed are front desk people (contact Chuck Sager or Sue Teer on Saturdays) and tour guides (contact Steve Gould on Thursdays). You can work a full day or half day, whatever your schedule permits. Also needed are car hosts (for safety and customer service) on weekends April to December on the Railyard Local. To car host or be a guide, there is an open-book safety test given and you must have a current membership (for insurance purposes). Car host training can be given by Chuck Sager, John Barton or Sue Teer on Saturdays, and you can contact Chuck for information.

Also, a call for Tuesday night modelers to keep our sets running, and we are always looking for interesting slide shows and presentations for the 7:30pm Wednesday night meetings. If interested, please contact one of the above at the Museum on Thursdays or Saturdays at: 1-203-778-8337.

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# Danbury Railway Museum

## Board Motions Passed in 2016

By Steve Gould, Secretary

### January

Motion to approve the 2016 Budget.

Motion to approve the DRM Mission and Vision Statements.

### March

Motion to research e-mail providers (e.g., Constant Contact).

Motion to discontinue the print version of *The Railyard Dispatch* newsletter when an e-mail provider has been chosen and approved.

Motion to continue Board meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm in the DRM office.

### May

Motion to approve the Library budget of \$4,850 for 2016.

Motion to approve Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest documents which were passed out at the April meeting.

Motions to go into and come out of Executive Session.

### June

Motion to create a Grievance Committee.

Motion to accept donations that are “restricted” only with approval of the Board.

Motion to direct the Treasurer to transfer investment funds from Raymond James to Fidelity with investment choices spelled out. See minutes for details.

Motion to approve the site for the location of the Mill Plain Station in the railyard which will be on a concrete slab.

Motion to de-accession 9 VHS tapes and 2 books.

Motion to spend up to \$1,000 for a new computer system to support the security system cameras.

Motion to go into and come out of Executive Session.

### August

Motion to renovate the front desk and purchase a Seth Thomas Regulator railroad clock, spending up to \$3,175, in the memory of Jeff Scott. Money to come from the Restricted Fund.

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*DRM Board Motions Passed in 2016, Continued from Page 3*

**September**

Motion to approve the Privacy Policy pending review by the DRM Legal Counsel.

**Called Meeting on September 29<sup>th</sup>:**

Motion to accept, with regret, the resignation of Wade W. Roese as President of the DRM.

**October**

Motion to approve expenditure of \$1,500 for the architect to measure existing roof framing of the Mill Plain Station.

Motion to rescind the motion establishing the Permanent Building Planning Committee enacted in 2008 and establish a standing committee called the Building and Structures Committee. See minutes for details.

Motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$10,000 by the Building and Structures Committee to construct a concrete slab in the railyard for the Mill Plain Station.

Motion to spend up to \$2,500 to purchase a used Case rough terrain fork-lift to be funded out of the 2016 budget.

**November**

Motion to appropriate \$49,500 to cover the relocation of the Mill Plain Station from its current site to the DRM railyard with funds coming from the Museum's Treasury surplus.

Motion to approve the 2017 Museum Calendar of Events.

Motion to establish an Exhibits Committee. See minutes for details.

Motion to spend \$96 for a six-month contract with Constant Contact to start the email distribution of the newsletter and to communicate with members regarding Museum events and activities.

Motion to rescind the motion to establish the By Laws Committee enacted in 2006 and amended in 2011 and establish a Special Committee called the By Laws Committee. See minutes for details.

**December**

Motion that the chairpersons for the Strategic Planning Committee and the Events Committee should be appointed by the Board.

**No motions passed in February, April, or July.**

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## Reporters Wanted

Reporters for the DRM's newsletter, *The Railyard Dispatch*, are needed. If you have an interest in journalism and photography and also like trains, then become one of our newsletter's reporters. Reporters would be needed for annual special events, various Museum activities and other occasions that would warrant reporter coverage. If interested, you must be a Museum member, have taken the safety exam and be over 16 years of age. Please contact the newsletter editor at: [drmnewsletereditor@yahoo.com](mailto:drmnewsletereditor@yahoo.com) if you are interested.



# 2016 Santa Express Trains

By Sue Teer; *Photos courtesy of Michael Madyda, unless otherwise noted*

Santa Trains ran for five days in December 2016 and we had lots of happy visitors seeing Santa and telling him their wishes in his special coach. Unfortunately, we had bad weather one of the days and also had to change equipment at the end of the event, but we steamed ahead with tattoos, hot chocolate, play tables and the decorated Station, steam engine and railyard, as we do every year. This year, the Station had extra sparkle with new lighting around the roof perimeter, inside the building, as well as on the turntable and various areas of the railyard. Thanks to all the volunteers who put in a lot of time and effort to present a nice event for the children!



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber



Continued on Page 6



2016 Santa Express Trains, *Continued from Page 5*



Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber



Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



Above photos courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor  
Continued on Page 7



2016 Santa Express Trains, Continued from Page 6



Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor



Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor





# 2016 Santa Express Evening Trains

*Photos courtesy of Michael Madyda, unless otherwise noted*



*Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber*





# Words from Our President

Dear Members,

The Mill Plain Station is now ours. Just before the end of 2016, the owner of the station, Ed Batista, submitted paperwork for my signature transferring ownership to the DRM. By doing this, we are now able to proceed with the move. Jeff Van Wageningen and Marty Grossman of the Building Committee have had several meetings with city concerning permits. The city has been extremely cooperative and has agreed to waive any fees. The contract has been signed with Salem Preservation so they can begin work removing the additions that were added to the building and the roof. They would like to start work closer to the time we actually move the station.

On Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>, the DRM received the H. Albert Webb Memorial Railroad Preservation Award presented at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show. This award, available through the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, is for \$10,000 and will go towards the restoration and replacement of timbers and ties on our turntable. Leigh Webb is the donor of the award which he created in the year 2000 in memory of his late father who loved the railroads of New England. Since its inception, the annual award has been given to a wide-range of railroad preservation projects in New England. The Danbury Railway Museum is very pleased to win the award and we thank Mass Bay RRE and Mr. Webb for their consideration in naming us the 2017 recipient!

President Stan Madyda



Members of the Danbury Railway Museum pose with the check and proclamation in front of the DRM booth at the Big E. *Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber*



Pictured from left to right: Mass Bay RRE President David Brown; DRM President Stan Madyda; DRM Vice President Chuck Sager; Treasurer Patty Osmer; Chairman Don Konen; and award donor Leigh A. Webb. *Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber*



Don Konen, Patty Osmer and Chuck Sager pose with the proclamation and check. *Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber*



Mass Bay RRE President David Brown addresses the audience gathered for the award ceremony at the show. *Photo courtesy of Michael Madyda*



# Danbury Railway Museum at the Annual Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show

By Patty Osmer; Photos courtesy of Michael Madyda

Once again, the Danbury Railway Museum had a presence at the Annual Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show. Over the weekend of January 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>st</sup> 2017, over 23,000 folks visited the show held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. This is the biggest railroad hobby show held in the Northeast. In attendance are vendors, museums, model railroaders, historical societies and others from all over the country. One can find photographs, memorabilia, model trains, videos, railroad art, artifacts, toys, clothing and more. There was an excellent turnout due to the unusually nice weather; many boxes which arrived full of merchandise went home empty! A highlight of the show was the receipt of the H. Albert Webb Memorial Award. These monies will be used to restore the ties and timbers on the turntable. A big thanks to Chuck Sager, Sue & Jim Teer, Joe & Mike LaPorta, Don Konen & Patty Osmer for another successful show!





# DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM

## 2017 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday Evening Meeting and Mini-Events, 7:30pm.  
Train rides on weekends April - November, subject to availability.

January 28 - 29	Amherst Train Show	See us at the "Big E" Train show, W. Springfield, MA.
<i>April 8, 9, 14, 15</i>	<i>Bunny Trains</i>	<i>Train rides to the Easter Bunny's Special Coach.</i>
May 14	Mother's Day	Mothers ride free with child's paid admission.
May 29	Memorial Day	Summer hours begin. Open 12 - 4.
June 10	Steel & Wheels	Car show, raffles and prizes. Proceeds to benefit ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) research.
	Car Show	
June 18	Father's Day	Fathers ride free with child's paid admission. Special Caboose Trains.
July 4	Independence Day	Open 12 - 4.
July 15	Owney, the Railway Post Office Dog Day	Stories, history and children's activities to honor Owney, the famous RPO dog.
August 5 - 6	Danbury Railway Days	Special Celebration with special activities.
August 12	DRM Picnic	Picnic for members and their families.
September 4	Labor Day	Summer hours end. Open 12 - 4.
September 9	First Responder's Day	Free admission and train rides for First Responders & their families (must present ID card or arrive in uniform).
<i>October 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29</i>	<i>Pumpkin Patch</i>	<i>Take a train ride to the Pumpkin Patch. Free pumpkin for children.</i>
November 12	Military Appreciation Day	Free train ride for past & present military personnel and their families (with ID card or arrive in uniform).
<i>December 3, 9, 10, 16, 17</i>	<i>Santa Trains</i>	<i>Santa's Special Train Rides. Special evening trains on Saturdays.</i>

**Special Fundraising Events with Special Admission in Italics. Discounted admission for Members.**  
**All events, times and equipment subject to change.**

**Please check our web site or call the Museum for up-to-date schedule and information.**

**Reservations suggested for Easter Bunny and Santa Trains. Reserve online at:**

**[www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org](http://www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org)**

### **HOURS:**

**WINTER HOURS (SEP – MAY): WED – SAT 10 - 4, SUNDAY 12 - 4.**

**SUMMER HOURS (JUN – AUG): MON – FRI 10 - 4; SAT 10 - 5; SUNDAY 12 - 5.**

**CLOSED HOLIDAYS EXCEPT FOR MEMORIAL DAY, INDEPENDENCE DAY & LABOR DAY.**

**Hours may differ for Special Events.**

### **DANBURY RAILWAY MUSEUM**

120 White Street

Danbury, CT 06810

203.778.8337

[www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org](http://www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org)

[info@danburyrail.org](mailto:info@danburyrail.org)



# DRM Superintendent of Operations Annual Report of Operations for 2016

By Jeff Van Wagenen, Superintendent of Operations

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 2016, we ran 102 days of train service for our visitors. This included our special event Bunny trains, Pumpkin Patch trains, Santa trains and several other special events on weekdays as well as on weekends. Again this year, we were able to schedule volunteers to operate trains on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

Once again, we were asked by the Danbury school system to provide a field trip destination for the third grade class. Our museum does this at no cost to the school system, and again we were happy to oblige. There were nine days of trains to accommodate the entire third grade, which was nearly 700 students! Don Konen presented a video to each class on safety around trains and railroad facilities prior to each train ride. The students and their teachers were wonderful guests.

We utilized 44-tonner #1399, RS1 #0673 and Budd #32 at various times during our operating season. RS1 #0673 was our usual power, and she ran without any major problems. SW8 Number 1 remained out of service awaiting a radiator replacement, which our Mechanical Department (Justin Chapin and helpers) hopes to accomplish in 2017. Track maintenance continued under the direction of Jim Teer, and we were able to replace a number of ties on the tail track and pull it back into gauge. We would not be able to operate without Jim and Justin's devoted work, as well as the other volunteers that assist them. The work is usually hot and strenuous, and always dirty. Thanks, guys!

We had no derailments (of occupied trains...), no train cancellations and no injuries, which are my metrics for a successful season. If you are one of the crew that helped, thank you! We are stretched for crew members, track workers, mechanical department volunteers and car hosts, so if you can help us out, please let me know and I will get you involved. My email address is: [jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com](mailto:jjvanwagenen@yahoo.com). To the crew that helped last year, thank you again and looking forward to working with you in 2017.

## MUSEUM CALENDAR Important Announcements:

**\*Updated Note** - Wednesday night meetings and programs will now be rescheduled to start at 7:30pm.\*

Due to a lack of presenters on Wednesday nights, there will no longer be any listing of presentations in the newsletter. All presentations will be emailed to you through our new email service. You may also call the Museum during open business hours to find out what's on Wednesday nights.

Board of Directors meetings will still take place the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Museum members may attend these meetings.

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

View the newsletter online at our new website:  
[www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org](http://www.danburyrailwaymuseum.org)



*Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber*

### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:  
Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum  
Attention: Newsletter  
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Email: [drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com](mailto:drmnewslettereditor@yahoo.com)  
Editor: Michael Madyda  
Printing by: Infinity Printing of Danbury

### **Change of Address:**

If moving, please send your new address to:  
Danbury Railway Museum,  
Attention: Membership Chairman  
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
Via Email to: [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)