

VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT

June 2016

After a hectic 10 days or so of preparations, we managed to get things in decent shape for the Media Day event on Friday, May 27th. The Museum regulars of Bil Jackson, Charlie Spikes, Fritz Elems, Ethan Doty, and Ali Barbato, as well as myself and Paul Finnegan, put in some long days cleaning things up during the days prior to the event, but it seems as though it may pay off in the long run. While testing the sound system in the Silver Plate, I managed to blow up the amplifier in the car, so I ordered a new one, at my expense, and had it express shipped in order to get it installed in time, which was done.

Duane VanderVeen donated several boxes of candy bars to sell in the WP Store, while we are slowly restocking the items we need. The Store is beginning to generate income for the season; I believe some issues will be discussed in closed session regarding the Store.

Memorial Day weekend was a success for the FRRS, generating over \$5000 in gross income, with good visitor counts on Saturday and Sunday, and better than usual on Monday. I had to make a road trip for Uncle Pete on Saturday and Sunday, so I was not there for those two days. Driving home from the Museum on Monday night, I started feeling a burning sensation on my chest, behind my cell phone. My phone's battery self-destructed and overheated, and I got a mild burn where it was clipped to my coveralls. So, Tuesday it was off to Susanville to get a new phone.

I have not heard anything from our attorney or the Court regarding Morgan's equipment yet, although Morgan has attempted to contact me twice (I have not responded.)

I am looking for more cars to add to our cabooses; we are becoming victims of our own success. I have not been able to reach an agreement with Bill Parker regarding use of his D&RGW caboose, so it will not be used. I am working on other options to add capacity. Cupola cabooses are preferred, because that's what most of our riders want; many of our cabooses do not have many windows or seats (483, 484), limiting their usefulness. There is also opposition to using the CCT 24, which I understand and will respect. Looks like I will have to resurrect the UP 25049 and make it usable (it will need some work, which I'll have to find time for). Using any of the privately-owned hacks (like Parker's) brings up thorny issues that I'd just as soon not deal with.

I have sent an apology to David Epling, and apologize to the Board, for my hasty and poor response to the election deadline issue, and am relieved that others that are not distracted (see next) were able to work out a good solution to this problem.

I have had some trouble keeping focused in the last two weeks; in that time, I have received a positive result on a colon cancer screening, and been scheduled for a comprehensive and detailed colonoscopy exam by my GI specialist in Reno in the near future; additionally, I have developed issues with my skin, which will lead to a visit to a dermatologist for testing for various skin cancers and melanoma, also in Reno. Because of these issues, as well as making myself available for these various FRRS functions in the last several months, I have missed enough work that I am now on the UP's "bad dog, no biscuit" list for too many layoffs. I think I have sufficient justification to show for many of these layoffs, but these humorless clowns don't see it that way. If it gets ugly, I'll just retire. I don't want to just yet, and I'm not ready to just yet, but I won't put up with their petty bullshit, either. I have enough on my plate here.

WP Lives, PT