

President's Report

February 2019

Not much to report on this month, since I have been recuperating from my health issues, and haven't been at the Museum much. I can report that Ethan was successful in getting all the lights down off the Santa Train before the heavy weather set in, which will undoubtedly save us from significant damage to the lights and fixtures, had they still been up, due to the heavy snow, cold, and ice. My family also completed stripping the passenger cars of all the Christmas decorations, and it's all stored in the party car for next year. Ethan also completed removal of the power cords and heaters from these cars, and they're ready to go outside in preparation for clearing the shop for mechanical work, should the weather give us a break. Hopefully most of you have seen Ethan's reports and photos of the snow conditions at the Museum, with more snow on the way. Access is limited to the north side of the building for now, pending results of the next storms. Also account of weather, and financial considerations, I will not be in Woodland for the meeting. My disability period is ending, and I need to jump through the hoops to get back to work in a timely manner, so I can pay my bills.

I have seen a photo of the 849 in Cheney, WA, on the BNSF, so it ought to be in Western Rail's hands by now. I haven't heard anything to the contrary. As for the ex-VIA lounge and Doyle's sleeper, I haven't heard anything back from Jon Clark (or UP, for that matter). Those two cars are still on the West Pass, which is our interchange track (the last time I checked, anyway).

I don't need to remind everyone that our financial situation is still precarious, considering this is only February. As expected, the electric bills for December and January were quite high (\$1400) due to the Santa Trains, and we also had to deal with advertising bills for the Santa Trains (to Feather Publishing and the Reno Gazette-Journal's parent company), as well as some other bills for materials, etc. These costs obviously affected the income from the events. I haven't yet summarized the event totals; I may have some numbers by the meeting (or maybe not). We have sold all 50 of Jeff Asay's books, as well as about half of the 2019 calendars. KC and I had a meeting in Quincy a couple of weeks ago, and we discussed our strategy for restocking the WP Store for the season, as well as the Convention. This restocking will take priority over a lot of other things (except mechanical work) this spring, as funds allow.

I have been in contact with Ron from Zumwalt Construction in Fresno. His company will be rebuilding the Senior Apartments on the hill behind the Museum, as well as the apartments in Loylton, starting in March or April. They expect this to be an 18-month project, and they would like to put a couple of containers on or near our property, adjacent to the apartments, to facilitate their work in Portola. He will be in contact with me prior to the containers arriving, and I told him I did not see any major issues with this. If anyone else has issues with this, I need

to know what the issues are, and how we can resolve them. I also plan to talk to Todd with the city about this. I mentioned this to Susan, (who is the City's Financial Officer), and she didn't know anything about it, so it looks like there will be a learning curve ahead for the City, as well.

I want to thank everyone who stepped up in various ways and situations to cover for my shortcomings in the last six weeks. I don't like not being able to take care of business like I'm used to, but I will be back. Special mention goes to Ethan Doty, Greg Elems, David Elems, Bil Jackson, Charlie Spikes, and Duane VanderVeen for keeping the Museum right side up since Santa Trains, getting Santa Train stuff put away, delivering to EPCAN, and shipping books and calendars, among other things. Willing People at its finest.

Steven J. Habeck