

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

December 2019

It is time to start looking for a replacement for Kristina Dunn in the gift shop. I have had some discussion with Patty Clawson and Eugene Vicknair. We will be discussing this in the board meeting. We need to decide where and how to advertise. Also do we reduce the work, i.e. just manage the museum store and find someone else for events or go about doing the events like we have. Keeping this in mind remember KC and Ali lead the Pumpkin Patch event. Steve Habeck with the Christmas event. Ideas and thoughts please. I don't want to take anything away from the people who have lead the teams in the events. Also we're talking about adding events that will need leaders.

I had a meeting with a gentleman who wants to have a photography class field trip at the museum. Two dates have been settled on, June 6th and October 3rd. Essentially there will be class room time followed by 3 hours of photography time after the museum closes to the public. We will have no train operations, we will encourage the class to explore and photograph. Details are still being worked out at this time as to numbers of participants and objectives. My goal is to get some new eyes seeing our campus (as the instructor/photographer put it) and hopefully we can have some new pictures to display in the diesel shop. It has been suggested we get a couple of members act as models, i.e. people doing things and giving the class something to add in the human side of our museum.

Work has continued on the SN 1642 after the Pumpkin Patch Express. We have one end mostly painted with 7 tubes of caulk and 5 lbs of wood filler used in preparation for the paint. Duane Van Der Veen started sanding and cleaning the metal bracing on the recently painted side. Thank you Duane.

Steve and Ethan continued with the decorations on the cabooses and engines. Weather cooperated mostly for the outside decorations. Man did they do a great job. With all the work to be done, we somehow were ready to roll on the first day of the event. With that under our belt Steve is of the opinion that it was a success and I agree. We had 55 cars through the gate, we ran on the half hour and had riders for every train. It is estimated we had 200 guests even though it was cold and rainy till about 7:45 pm. We did well at the gate money wise but not so well (in my opinion) in the collection of canned goods.

We found a burnt out light in the north east corner of the shop. Replacing it required a tall ladder and since the two vendors who were going to set up there had last minutes issues come up it wasn't a big deal. What is a big deal is Duane Van Der Veen came in this last week and took care of the issue. A big shout out and thanks to Duane.

Greg Elems
President WPRM