

Volunteer “Get Ready for Opening Work Party”*- Eugene Vicknair*

The museum held its annual “Get Ready for Opening” work party on April 13th and 14th, however volunteer participation was very disappointing. At the February Board Meeting, Eric McKay apologized that he would be unable to attend this year, but generously donated \$100 to fund the breakfast. (Thank you Eric!) Eugene Vicknair made the arrangements and was prepared to cook an excellent breakfast to be held in the historic “Silver Plate” dining car, but only three additional volunteers were present at breakfast time. Janet Steeper, Charlie Spikes and non-member Christopher Kapreilian enjoyed a nice breakfast and were later joined by David and Greg Elems for the day’s work.

They team worked on the Troop Sleeper and Board / Crew Meeting Room. Charlie focused on sweeping and cleaning in the Troop Sleeper, which recently received new mattresses donated by a Boy Scout troop in Reno. The rest of the crew tackled the Meeting Room where they found old food as well as utensils, paper plates, and other materials that were contaminated and all needed to be thrown away. Eugene and Greg hauled both refrigerators / freezers outside and Janet joined them in completely scrubbing and sanitizing the units inside and out. Chris scrubbed and mopped the floor in the Meeting Room and everyone pitched in to throw out all the trash from the cleaning work. The room was reorganized and reset to improve space use and access to the storage areas and refrigerators.

Following the cleaning session, several issues with food storage and contamination were noted. New rules on food storage will be determined and covered in crew training.

Thank you to everyone who came out and helped with the cleaning!

While cleaning goes on throughout the year, these spring sessions have been effective in the past at getting a good start for the opening of the public season. While it is dirty work, it is needed to allow the museum to be presented to

the public and members in its best light.

Another session will be scheduled for next April. Please help out if you can!

Crew Training Report*- Paul Finnegan*

We added a new feature for this year’s crew training. We created an online rules exam. The new system sends a customized invitation to the volunteer when they register for training to take the exam before class online. This allows crewmembers to have more time available when they come to the museum for training, or to do something other than taking the written exam. This year Loren Ross took some of the members who had taken the exam online and did additional on-the-job training. It is important to remember that all crewmembers must attend crew training and the online exam does not replace the class-room material.

We had two crew training classes this year. The first class had seventeen attendees and was held on Saturday April 27th. We had no new members in this class. Returning members Lew Barnard, Kerry Cochran, Ali Doty, Ethan Doty, David Elems, Greg Elems, Fred Elenbaas, Paul Finnegan, Michael Giarritta, Bil Jackson, Bill Parker, Jackson Parker, Loren Ross, Craig Simmons, Charlie Spikes, Janet Steeper, and Duane Vander Veen attended the first class.



The second scheduled class for 2019 was held on Sunday, May 26th in the Board Room at the museum. Loren Ross lead both training classes and David Epling, Kenneth Finnegan, Donald Nelson, Edward Powell and Kevin Ross attended the second class.

Kevin Ross is a new member of the Operating department and joins as a student brakeman.