

FRRS Grants in 2023

- Eugene Vicknair

This year has seen the Feather River Rail Society receiving several grants to help further our mission of preserving the Western Pacific Railroad.

The first one we received this year is also the most significant: a \$1 million grant through the Department of Agriculture Rural Development funds to begin construction on our long proposed Whitman Multi-Purpose Building. We are currently working on the paperwork and requirements for release of the funding and putting in place the contracting team that will start the initial phase of work. While we will need more money to complete the building, this funding gives us a strong start. Thank you to Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-1) and his staff for all their help in securing these funds.

The second grant we received was from Plumas County and will help address an annual issue with the Diesel Shop. Due to several factors, the north side of the building tends to flood each winter when snowmelt and rain infiltrate the building. With a \$9,500 grant from the county's COVID recovery funds, our Facilities Department will be able to address the drainage problem that lies at the root of this issue. With the funds in hand, we are looking to begin work on this project.

Most recently, we have received \$7,500 from the Union Pacific Foundation for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements. While the exact work list is being finalized, these funds will allow us to improve our visitor experience and access to the facilities and our historic collection.

Finally, while not a monetary grant, we are honored to have been nominated by the residents of our new congressional district, CA-3, and our new Congressman, Kevin Kiley, for the National Medal of Museum and Library Service. Based on a vote of those in the district, we were one of two organizations nominated from CA-3 by the congressman. Our application was completed with endorsements from Congressmen Kiley and LaMalfa as well as several community figures

from eastern Plumas County for this national award. The final organization chosen will be announced later this year.

As Funding Manager for the society, I want to thank Patty Clawson of Big Fish Creations, CMO David Elems, President Greg Elems and Director Janet Steeper for their assistance in working on these grant and award applications.



Santa and his helpers in 2022 at WPRM

SANTA TRAINS 2023

All aboard for Santa Trains at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California. This family tradition returns again this year.

Enjoy rides aboard a festive holiday train covered in lights. Free homemade cookies, hot cider, coffee and hot chocolate. And the kids get to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Museum opens at 4 pm with train rides starting at 5 pm and continuing until everyone has a turn! (Usually about 8:00 pm)

2023 Santa Trains Friday and Saturday Evenings:

Saturday December 2nd

Friday & Saturday, December 8th & 9th

Friday & Saturday, December 15th & 16th

Admission is \$10 per carload, or \$5 per carload with 3 cans of non-perishable food for the EP-CAN food bank.