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Visit our website at:  
carsonrailroadmuseum.org



**WINTER 2018**  
134th Edition

#### Inside this issue:

Featured Article:  
Story Time a 'hit' at  
Nevada State Railroad  
Museum  
By Guy Clifton

Join the FNSRM Events  
Crew

Message from Friends' 2  
President Barry Sim-  
coe

Legislature provides 3  
funds for school bus  
transportation to Ne-  
vada State Museums

2018 FNSRM Election 3  
Announcement

Sabbatical renews 5  
priest's spirit

**THE NEVADA STATE  
RAILROAD MUSEUM**  
An Agency of the Nevada  
Department of Tourism  
and Cultural Affairs

# SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM

## Join the FNSRM Events Crew

By Rebecca Bevans

Do you love the Nevada State Railroad Museum? Do you love trains? Do you love parties? Have you been wanting to volunteer, but you don't have the time to regularly help at the museum or you don't have the desire to be on the Steam or Motor Car Crews? Well then, the Events Crew could be just right for you! The Events Crew's mission is to create fun, family events that bring visitors to the NSRM.

(Continued on page 6)



Special Event Volunteer Matthew Ingbar delivers pumpkins to a waiting vehicle for visitors during Harvest Train 2017.

## Story Time a 'Hit' at Nevada State Railroad Museum

By Guy Clifton

When the Carson City Library was undergoing renovations earlier this year, it outsourced its "Story Time" program for youngsters to other locations, including the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

That experienced brought an epiphany to museum staff and volunteer Susie Kapahee.

"I loved the energy, loved

(Continued on page 7)



Nevada State Railroad Museum volunteer Susie Kapahee leads the new "Story Time," program at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. The program will be held every other Saturday.

## VISIT THE MUSEUM

**Open 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Thursday through Monday  
(closed Tuesday & Wednesday)**

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day

### Museum Admission:

Adults 18 & Over - \$6.00  
Children (Under 18) - FREE  
Museum Members - FREE

## STEAM TRAIN & MOTORCAR RIDES

Rides run every weekend May through September with select dates in October, November, and December.

The complete 2018 operating schedule is available at:  
[carsonrailroadmuseum.org](http://carsonrailroadmuseum.org)

## STATE OF NEVADA

**Brian Sandoval**, Governor

## DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**David C. Peterson**, Interim Director

## DIVISION OF MUSEUMS AND HISTORY

**Peter Barton**, Administrator

## NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM, CARSON CITY

**Dan Thielen**, Director

## SAGEBRUSH HEADLIGHT NEWSLETTER

**Adam Michalski**, Curator of Education: Editor  
**Lara Brown**, Museum Store Manager: Designer

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2180 South Carson Street  
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## Message from the President of the Friends of the NSRM, Barry Simcoe

Email: [barrysimcoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barrysimcoe@sbcglobal.net)  
Phone: (775) 379-1353

It's almost spring at the Museum and we are getting ready for an action packed season. Safety training is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup>. This year and going forward Kevin Owens will be participating in the meeting and will be calling crews. Please make sure to attend one of the meetings.

As you can see from the schedule on the Friends website we have added new events starting with an Easter event March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Armed Forces weekend steam up May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition we have added the Iron Horse Rail Camp which is a four-day event, limited to ten participants who will get hands on experience with V&T Locomotive # 25, the McKeen car # 22, and the #401 Edwards car.

All these events will require quite a few volunteers in addition to the train crews. Rebecca Bevans is developing a program to define positions and schedule volunteers for the non-operating positions. These volunteers are vital to ensuring we have successful events. Contact information to sign up for these positions will be published in this issue of the *Sagebrush Headlight*.

These events are the result of the Events Committee meetings held on Fridays in Dan Thielen's office. The committees meetings schedule are posted in the *Monday Morning Line*. I encourage anyone interested to attend.

Once again I thank you for all the time and effort you put into supporting the Museum. Please feel free to contact me anytime with your ideas, questions, or concerns.

*Thanks,  
Barry*

**Note: Upcoming FNSRM Board Meetings are scheduled for April 2 & June 4, 2018. All members of the Friends' organization are encouraged to attend!**



## Legislature Provides Funds for School Bus Transportation to Nevada State Museums *By Peter Barton*

Education is at the foundation of, and is the primary goal for all museums. Incubating, stimulating, and curating memory is central to achieving engagement with our audiences, regardless of age. We use objects and artifacts as windows to tell stories of the past and make them relevant to today. Without a constant focus on education a museum will lose relevance and turn back in time to when museums were perceived as attics or warehouses for old "stuff."

Despite our investments in effective education, what if the audience can't get to our door? Well, over the last decade the Nevada State Museums have witnessed a double-digit decline in attendance by students from K-12 schools. When we probed for the reason for the decline, educators and parents almost universally cited that schools could no longer afford the cost of transporting students outside the classroom and to our museums. Field trips and museum



*Schools can get reimbursed for transportation costs to take a field trip to any of the seven Nevada State Museums under a new program launched in 2017.*

visits were becoming a thing of the past as school district budgets tightened and transportation costs escalated. How could we reverse the trend?

In a pre-session hearing leading up to the 2017 Nevada Legislative session this issue was raised by the Division of Museums & History. District 19 Assemblyman Chris Edwards spoke up and questioned what it would cost if the State were to offset transportation costs to bring K-12

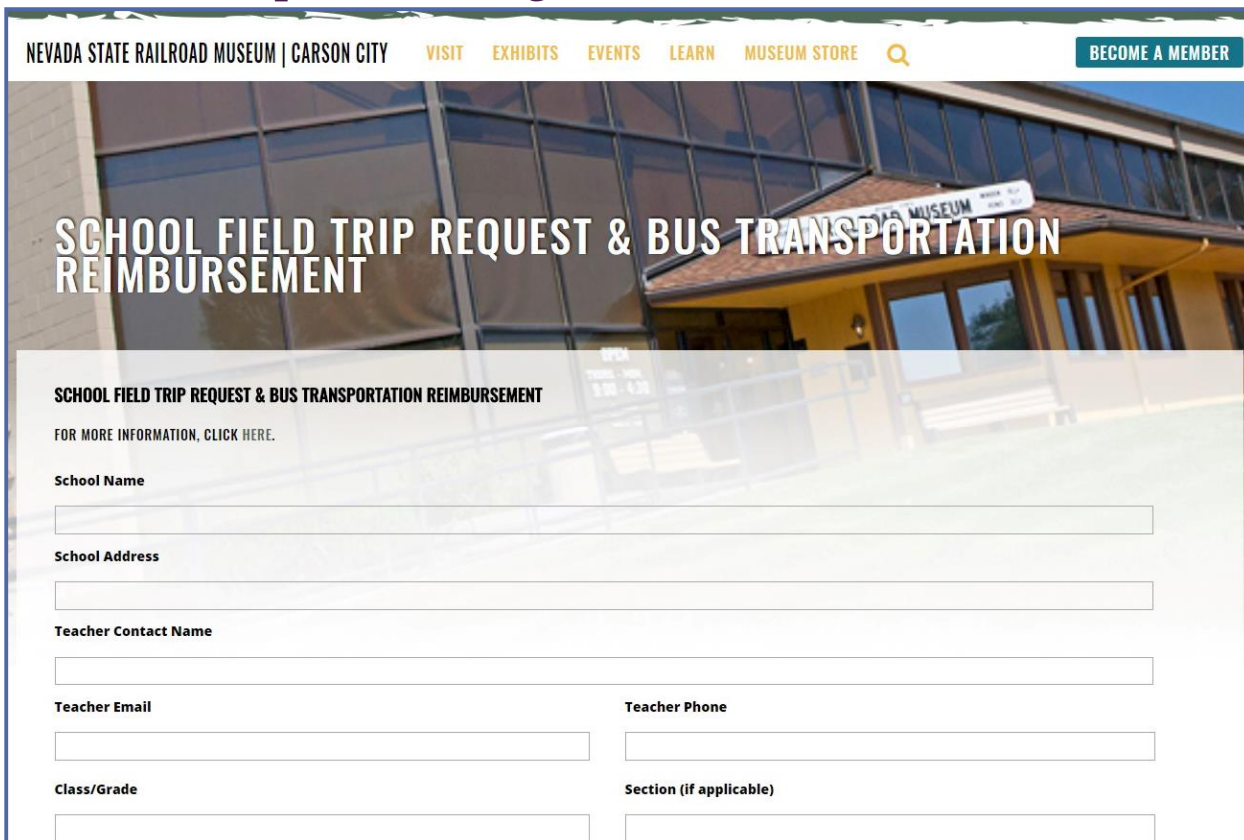
students to one of the seven State Museums. Determining that was no small task as there is no consistency between school districts as to how transportation costs are calculated and assessed to a particular classroom. Nonetheless we persevered and provided the requested information, to the best of our ability. Then – nothing – silence -- up until our budget closing hearing when the issue came up again.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## 2018 Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum Board of Trustees Election

Applications are being accepted for the 2018 Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum Board of Trustees election. Trustee terms are three years in length with meetings held in Carson City bi-monthly. To be considered please submit a concise biography including name, address, phone number, and e-mail address, any railroading or applicable experience, and any other personal information that you feel may be valuable to the Nevada State Railroad Museum and/or the Friends. Submissions may be sent to the Registrar, David Brambley, by email at: [vtrrloco18@aol.com](mailto:vtrrloco18@aol.com). Also, you may mail your submission to: David Brambley, Registrar, Friends of the NSRM, 2016 State Ln., Big Bear City, CA 92314. Deadline for submissions is Friday, August 17, 2018. 🗓️

## School Bus Transportation Program *(continued from page 3)*



NEVADA STATE RAILROAD MUSEUM | CARSON CITY VISIT EXHIBITS EVENTS LEARN MUSEUM STORE Q BECOME A MEMBER

### SCHOOL FIELD TRIP REQUEST & BUS TRANSPORTATION REIMBURSEMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CLICK HERE.

School Name

School Address

Teacher Contact Name

Teacher Email

Teacher Phone

Class/Grade

Section (if applicable)

Teachers can request a field trip and bus transportation reimbursement through the NSRM website:  
<http://nvculture.org/nevadastaterailroadmuseumcarsoncity/school-field-trip-request-bus-transportation-reimbursement/>

Without any further input from the Division, the budget committees moved to include new funding in the Division's budget, to pilot a school bus transportation reimbursement program for all public, private, and charter schools in Nevada. \$250,000 was provided in each year of the 2018-2019 biennium to pilot the program.

On November 7, 2017 the Division launched the new bus transportation reimbursement program and began to

aggressively market it to educators across the State. While the program provided funding for the transportation reimbursements, it did not provide for additional staff to manage this complex agenda. So we turned to technology via a web-based application to manage the program logistics.

Educators can request a museum tour and school bus transportation reimbursement via a single transaction on each of the State museum websites. Internal

procedures to support the program, encumber funds, and authorize payments to school districts is largely automated as well.

While we are only about 100 days into the program, we thus far have close to 5,000 students from 64 schools in 81 buses who have visited or are scheduled to visit as a result of this new opportunity this calendar year. We anticipate those numbers will skyrocket as we get close-in on the Spring and the time of the school year

when most museum visits occur.

One way you can help us is by getting the word out that the cost of transportation to our museums is no longer an impediment to having every Nevada school student visit a Nevada State Museum. The result for the student is lasting – new, enduring memories, and an appreciation for the trail-blazing spirit of Nevadans over time. 🚍

## Sabbatical Renews Priest's Spirit

By Joe Geders, CM



Joe Geders, CM, and the rail rider he built, "The Marvelous Melba", spend the day on the Virginia & Truckee RR.

After 32 years of ministry as a Roman Catholic priest, I was granted sabbatical time for renewal. Besides time for study and spiritual practices, I was encouraged to devote some time to my avocations. As someone who has been fascinated by trains and steam power from childhood, to be able to spend time learning, working, and experiencing the NSRM as part of a sabbatical was a great opportunity.

Working in the restoration shop was a fascinating trip through railroad history. The careful research of materials, paint schemes, and colors was far more detailed than most would expect. The historic Virginia and Truckee Coach #17 was

a lesson in just a few of the techniques of preservation and restoration. This coach started its life on the Central Pacific as a business car and carried the golden spike to Promontory. Later it came to the V&T who converted it to a coach. It finished its life in Hollywood as a movie prop. The conservation of such an artifact seems much like peeling an onion layer by layer. Each newly revealed layer raises new questions. There are also questions as to which period the car might be restored, as well as the careful examination of the many layers of paint to learn what might be the original colors and so many more historical details of its construction.

The museum is especially fortunate that its collections are not merely static. Without the operation of some equipment, it is very difficult to properly interpret the artifacts in the collection. The museum is fortunate to have an expert staff to maintain and volunteers to operate the equipment. Having some experience in the operation of steam locomotives, it was a great thrill for me to have my hand on the throttle of the Glenbrook narrow gauge engine. I have long admired Dan Markoff's "Eureka", another Baldwin engine built in 1875. That locomotive gave me a real love of wood burners and the narrow gauge. It is awesome to think that the Glenbrook, the Inyo, and the Eureka, all built by Baldwin for Nevada's railroads, first shared space on the factory floor in 1875. It is a tribute to the State of Nevada that all three of these locomotives are restored and operational and two of them share a home at NSRM!

Besides these activities, I had some time to work on a more personal project. Several years ago, I purchased the wheels and axles and some rough plans to build a rail rider. A

rail rider is something on the order of a speeder built on a simple frame. With a lot of direction and help from the guys in the shop, my project moved forward slowly. The project provided an opportunity to learn some machining skills in the shop in order to make or adjust parts. The project came together near the end of my time at the museum. The finished rail rider can seat two or three people and is powered with either human effort via bicycle pedals or a gasoline engine. We quickly learned that uphill is much more fun with the engine! She was christened "The Marvelous Melba" to honor the memory of my mother. Kevin Owens secured permission for a test run on the rails of the historic Virginia and Truckee Railroad. She performed flawlessly all the way up to Virginia City and back!

I am grateful to the museum director, staff and the Friends of the NSRM for their gracious hospitality. I am especially grateful to Chris DeWitt and all of the restoration shop staff for sharing their extensive knowledge and experience. 🚂



## FNSRM Events Crew *(continued from Page 1)*



*Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum members plan events, and enjoy participating in them. Some of our volunteers dress in period clothing and greet guests during Santa Train. Other opportunities include, preparing raffle prizes, selling raffle tickets, helping children with arts and crafts, decorating, talking to visitors about the benefits of FNSRM memberships, and more.*

Over the past few years the Events Crew has been responsible for planning, organizing, and executing such fun events as the Steampunk Event, the Harvest Train, and Santa Train. We reach out to the public for education and advertising, we contact vendors, and we work with the schools in the surrounding communities. We organize, set up, and host fun party events. We sell raffle tickets and educate our guests on the value of FNSRM memberships. We plan, provide, and supervise games and special events for the children. Most of all, we bring entertaining experiences to our guests at the NSRM!

This year we have several fun and exciting events planned. In May we will be hosting an Armed Forces Day and our traditional Memorial Day Event. In June, we will have an Arts and Culture Event (formally known as the Steampunk Event). On June 30-July 1 we have our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Event that will include speeders from the West Coast Railroad Group. In September we have our traditional Labor Day Weekend Event. In October we have two weekends of Harvest Train. In November we will be taking the handcar through the Nevada Day Parade. And finally,

in December, we will be hosting three weekends of Santa Train, complete with unique events for children with special needs. As you can see, we have many events planned, and a lot of opportunities for you to assist and become part of the Events Crew. Come join us!

If these activities interest you, consider becoming a member of the FNSRM Events Crew. Contact Rebecca Bevans at [rebecca-bevans@yahoo.com](mailto:rebecca-bevans@yahoo.com) for more details on how you can participate with the Events Crew. 🚂

## Story Time *(Continued from Page 1)*

working with the kids, so I thought, 'Why don't we do a program of our own,'" Kapahee said.

So Adam Michalski, the museum's curator of education, museum attendant Cristol Digangi and Kapahee put their heads together and a new program was born.

"Story Time," made its debut on February 24 with about a dozen youngsters hearing the story of "The Little Engine That Could." The program will continue every other Saturday in the Jacobsen Interpretive Center. As the weather gets warmer, the program is likely to switch from inside to on board one of the museum's trains.

For Kapahee, the combination of children, reading and trains is a delight. After working in

the library system in Washoe County, she and her husband, George, retired and moved to Carson City from Reno last year.

"I was with the library system in Washoe County for a number of years," she said. "I was the marketing coordinator over adult programming and also got involved with the children's librarians. I loved the kids and their love of reading. I saw how it changed lives. We would bring in these school children for reading and doing crafts. I just saw what a difference it made with the kids." After moving to Carson City, Kapahee became involved with the railroad museum through a longtime friendship with Dr. Rebecca Bevans and the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

"I love trains," she said. "I al-

ways have. At Disneyland, that was my favorite thing to do." Kapahee volunteered with the museum's Harvest Train program in the fall and Santa Train program during the holiday season.

She sees great potential for the Story Time program. The museum has a number of train-related children's books, including the home-grown "The Legend of Whistlin' Billy," written by museum volunteers Loren Jahn and Jane O'Cain and published by the Friends of the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

"This is a coloring book and we'll be adding that in for the kids and I expect to start doing some crafts eventually as well," she said.

The Story Time program is free for children and admission is \$6 for adults. 🚂

Nevada State Railroad Museum volunteer Susie Kapahee reads "The Little Engine That Could" to youngsters in the debut of "Story Time," at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City. The new program will be held every other Saturday.





# NEW ITEMS IN THE MUSEUM STORE!

*Hot off the press...the highly anticipated...*

## Hollywood Railroads Volume II: Sierra Railroad

*by Larry Jensen*  
\$19.95

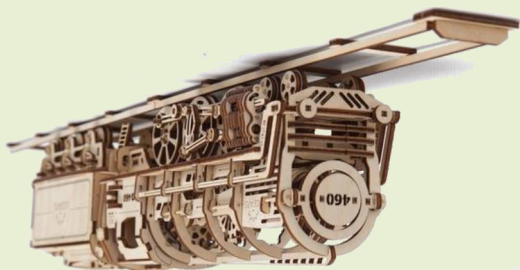
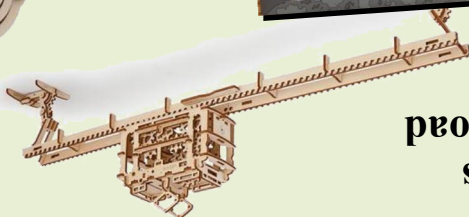
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