



# THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER

St. Louis Chapter NRHS --- [www.stlouisnrhs.org](http://www.stlouisnrhs.org)

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Editor: VACANT - [newsletter.exchange@stlouisnrhs.org](mailto:newsletter.exchange@stlouisnrhs.org)

President: David Huelsing - [dhuelsing@stlouisnrhs.org](mailto:dhuelsing@stlouisnrhs.org)



*Ex-Frisco 14-4 sleeper Cimarron River, built in 1948, is parked alongside Amtrak Acela 2034, built 52 years after the Pullman built sleeper, at Boston's South Station. Cimarron*

*River was in town on a St. Louis Chapter NRHS private car excursion from St. Louis and Chicago. Photo taken on September 15, 2017.*

*Photo by Rick Sprung*

### **UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING**

Wednesday, October 1 7:00 pm  
The National Museum of Transportation  
Lindburgh Automobile Center, 2nd Floor

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### **President's Message**

In November, we will have our annual officer elections. All positions are available. If anyone would like to serve as an officer, please contact our Nominating Chair - Rich Chenault at [racjeep2004@gmail.com](mailto:racjeep2004@gmail.com). It would be great to get more members involved.

At the September meeting, it was an honor to present Ron Gawedzinski a Life Membership in the St. Louis Chapter. Ron has served as Secretary, President, National Representative, Investment Committee Chair, and Tour Guide. It has been an honor working with him over the years.

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### **Minutes From The St. Louis Chapter NRHS Monthly Meeting**

**Date: September 3, 2025**

President David Huelsing called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**New members and guests:** No new members or guest.

**August minutes approval:** Motion to approve was made by Eileen Weber and seconded by Al Weber. The minutes were approved.

#### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**VP Program Director-Andy Sisk:** Tonight's program is called Oddities Along the Iron Way. Next month will be a history of the NRHS, followed by Cliff Kierstead, who will show pictures from this year's Michigan convention. November's program will be on the Katy.

**VP Trip Director –Rick Sprung:** . No report other than Amtrak is allowing private cars to Kansas City again.

**VP Membership Eileen Weber:** Renewals will be starting next month. Can renew online or give a check to Steve Siegerist. NRHS news will be arriving next few weeks.

**Treasurer – Steve Siegerist:** We have money.

**Ron Zimmer:** Next investment committee meeting will be on October 22nd.

**Secretary – Bill Heger:**No report.

**National Advisory Committee Representative Cliff Kierstead:** He will attend the fall NRHS meeting.

**Railletter Editor:** Always need articles for the newsletter email.

**Internet Media Administrator – Steve Binning:**Not present. No report.

**Librarian Taylor:** See the back table for current library offerings.

**Parliamentarian Ron Zimmer:** Nothing to report

**President David Huelsing:** Presentation to Ron Gawedzinski, who is moving to Texas.. He was presented a life time membership to the chapter.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Nominating committee:** All but one current officers have responded

**News Items:**

Eileen Weber: Brought back some things from past convention

Ron Gawedzinski: Narrow Gauge convention will be at the Collinsville Convention Center today through Sunday.

The Boeing swap meet will be Saturday, September 6 at Queeny Park.

The History fair will be at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters on Lindbergh on September 6, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.

Rick Sprung: The Polar Express is up to 11 cars. They have added a tenth car. The Castaneda Hotel, the restored Harvey House in Las Vegas, NM, has been sold.

Al Weber: The Harry Potter train will be in St. Louis March through May.

Andy Sisk: New webcam in Pacific, MO on both tracks. Hoosier traction meet will be the second week in September in Indianapolis.

The 50/50 drawing was held.

**Motion to Adjourn:** Made by Al Weber. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 PM.

Submitted by:

Bill Heger

Secretary, St. Louis Chapter,

National Railway Historical Society

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### **It's Chapter Membership Renewal Time**

It is time to renew your membership in the St. Louis Chapter NRHS. Cost is only \$14.00 for a family membership. Please renew via mail using the attached form, or via the internet using the link provided. Your membership expires December 31, so please join now. This just renews your membership in the Chapter; you must renew your National membership separately.

Eileen Weber

VP - Membership Services

### **Ron Gawedzinski Is Leaving For Texas**

Long time Chapter member Ron Gawedzinski leaving St. Louis to be closer to family in Texas. Ron has served as chapter President, Secretary, member and chair of many committees, chapter national representative to the NRHS, organizer of local



tours. He was recognized at the September chapter meeting with a lifetime chapter membership.

Ron wrote the following letter to the chapter:

*"To All the Members of the St. Louis Chapter:*

*Thank you ever so much for the two gifts President Huelsing presented to me at Wednesday's Chapter meeting. The presentation was more surprising than could have been imagined.*

*Receiving the award of the Lifetime Membership in the St. Louis Chapter is truly an honor. Being a member of the Chapter for over 24 years has been a rewarding experience. It allowed me to be the Chapter's Secretary, President, an initiator of joint group picnics and tours, the Chapter National Representative and the Chairman of the Investment Committee.*

*I'll always treasure my time in the Chapter, and the beautiful, pictorial booklet with pictures of me at various activities with my fellow Chapter members.*

*Thank you again for this incredible recognition and the opportunity to have worked with all of you during the past years.*

*Best regards, Ron Gawedzinski "*

Thank you, Ron, for all your years of volunteer service to the St. Louis Chapter!



*Top: Ron is presented with a lifetime chapter membership at the September St. Louis Chapter NRHS meeting.*

*Bottom: Ron joins the St. Louis Chapter Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for a "family portrait."*

## **We Are (Still) Looking For An Editor**

Want to be an editor of a periodical publication? Always wanted to put a newsletter together? Here's your chance...

The Chapter's *Gateway Railletter* Editor position is currently vacant. The job requires a few hours a month of putting articles, news and photos into the MailChimp format.

If you are interested in becoming the editor, please contact David Huelsing or any chapter officer. Until we find a new editor David and Rick Sprung will be filling the position. If you have anything that you would like to submit please e-mail it to [newsletter.exchange@stlouisnrhs.org](mailto:newsletter.exchange@stlouisnrhs.org). Photos must have captions or an overall description included. Image and text file requirements can be found below.

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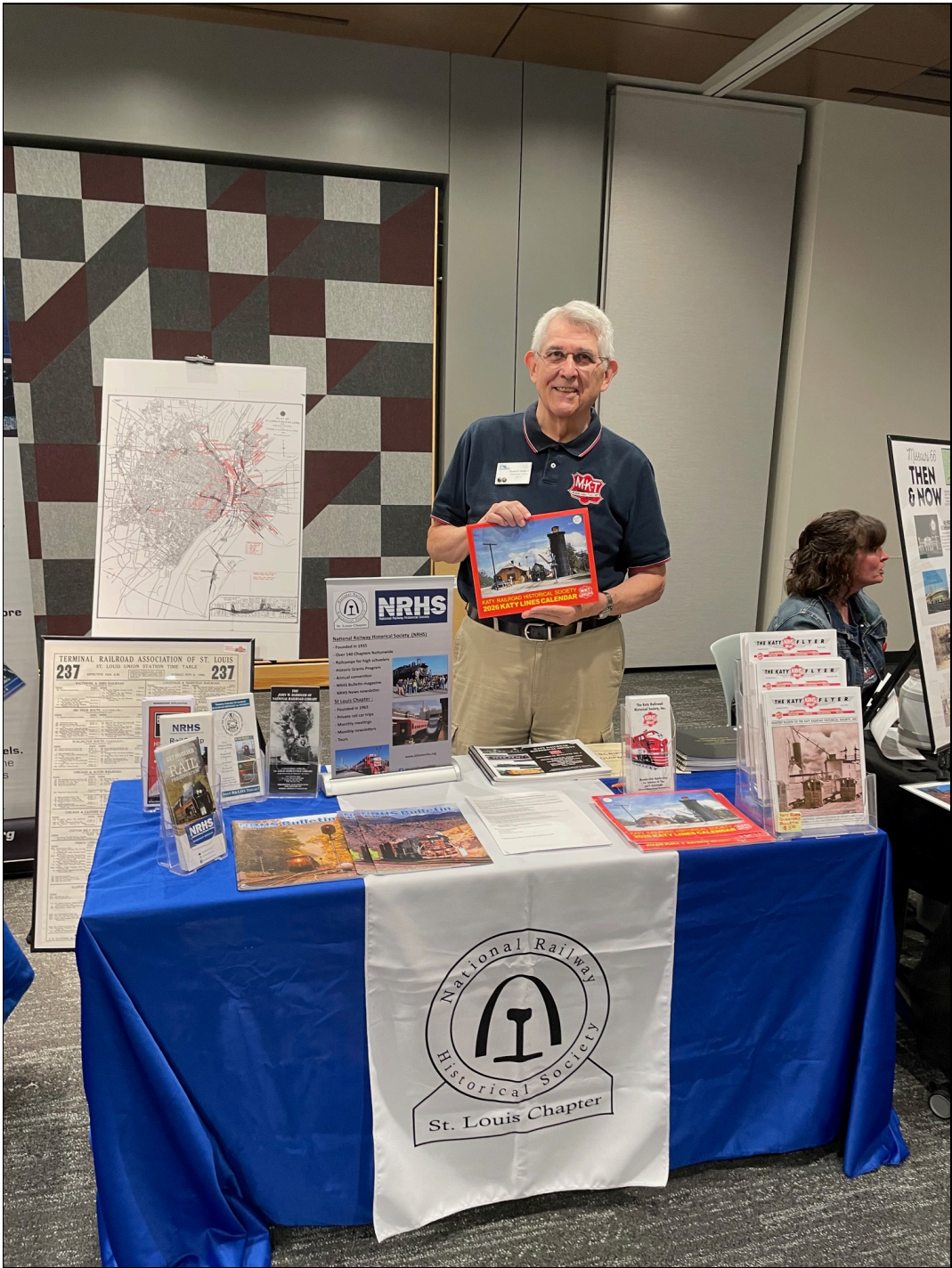
### **St. Louis Chapter Joins Katy Railroad Historical Society and Missouri Pacific Historical Society at St. Louis County Library History Fair**

On Saturday September 6, the St. Louis Chapter NRHS, Missouri Pacific Historical Society, and Katy Railroad Historical Society shared three tables at the St. Louis County Library History Fair. David Huelsing & Ray George worked the event. The fair had over 400 attendees and about 50 local history organizations and museums.

This was a great event to network and meet people interested in history and share some railroad history. We passed out literature to those interested. MPHS signed up four new members.











*Top: The Event at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters.*

*Middle: Ray George at the joint St. Louis Chapter NRHS and Katy Railroad Historical Society table.*

*Bottom: David Huelsing at the Missouri Pacific Historical Society table.*

## ST. LOUIS CHAPTER NRHS GRANT REPORT

### The National Museum of Transportation's Restoration of Wabash Caboose 2847

**Amanda Murphy Ryman**

*Grant Writer*

*The National Museum of Transportation*

*Photos courtesy of The National Museum of Transportation*

The National Museum of Transportation (TNMOT) is pleased to announce that a project supported by the St. Louis NRHS is now complete. In spring 2024, the St. Louis NRHS granted \$3,000 to the Museum to complete needed exterior repairs on the Wabash #2847 caboose. Built in 1952, this cupola-style caboose is located just outside the Museum's main entrance at the Orthwein Education & Visitors Center.

Because of its proximity to the entrance and its open and renovated interior cabin space, the caboose is a favorite for Museum visitors. After years of exposure to the elements, the caboose needed a number of repairs to maintain its appearance and preserve it for the future.

The #2847 was the 68th of 70 cabooses built by the Wabash Railroad between 1945 and 1952 at their shops in Decatur, Illinois. The caboose served the railroad for its entire career. After its retirement from working service, the #2847 was purchased by private owners Vance and Dorothy Lischer. Vance, a retired structural engineer with extensive knowledge of railroading and bridge construction, painstakingly restored the caboose inside and out over a four-year period in the early 1970s. For the next 20 years, the #2847 welcomed visitors, especially children, at the Lischer's property on Dielman Road in Olivette, Missouri. When the family decided they could no longer provide the proper maintenance for the artifact, they donated it to the Museum.

Work began on this project in mid-June 2024. With support from the St. Louis Chapter NRHS Endowment Fund and an additional investment from the NRHS Railway Heritage Grant Program, TNMOT hired a contractor to completely repaint and restore the exterior of the caboose. Once the car was repainted, TNMOT used appropriate stencils to rewrite the graphics. Restoration of the Wabash caboose was formally completed in late July 2024. A donor plaque acknowledging the St. Louis NRHS and the NRHS as key contributors to this restoration project will be installed on the Wabash's artifact label in fall 2025.







*Wabash Caboose 2847 before receiving its new paint*









*After the repainting.*

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## **The Ashley, Drew & Northern Railway of Arkansas**



*Ashley, Drew & Northern 1514 at Crossett, Arkansas on October 22, 1986. It is ex-Santa Fe CF7 2522, which was rebuilt from Santa Fe F7A 255C.*

*Editor's note: This article is from the MPHS Archives Dale Walker Collection. It is believed to be written/compiled by the original MPHS archivist, Dale Walker (now deceased) in the 1980's. We do not know if this collection was published, or used as notes for presentations, or personal notes. It is reprinted here with some edits.*

By Dale Walker – August 1986

The Ashley, Drew & Northern Railway is a 41.57 mile short line located in Southwest Arkansas. Owned by the Georgia Pacific Co., which is the major customer of the road.

Originally chartered in 1905 as the Crossett Railway, which built 10 miles of road. In 1912 the road was sold to the Crossett, Monticello, and Northern, which planned an extension north to make a junction with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern. They got partway there and ran out of money, so they sold out to a new company: Ashley, Drew & Northern Railway organized August 8, 1913. On December 1, 1914, the road was leased to the Arkansas, Louisiana & Gulf Railroad. In 1920, the lease was cancelled and the company began to operate on its own again. In 1963, the Ashley, Drew & Northern and its parent corporation – the Crossett Lumber Company were purchased by Georgia Pacific, which also owns a joining railroad: Fordyce & Princeton. The two railroads serve the largest inter-related mill complex in

the world – 12 plants making paper, building products, and chemicals – all derived from the Southern Pine Forests of Southern Arkansas and Northern Louisiana.

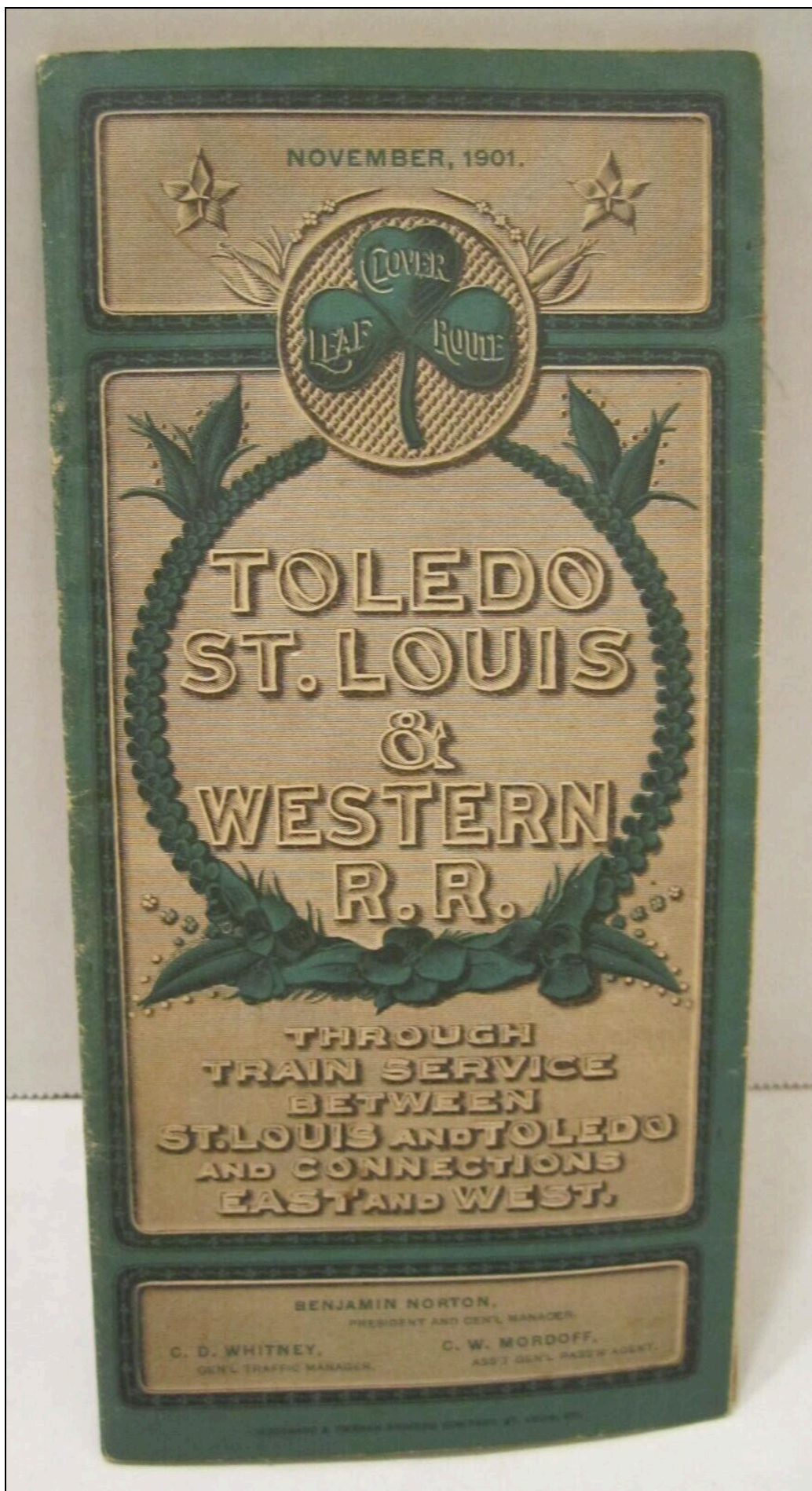
Postscript (from Wikipedia)

***Abandonment:*** *In early 1991, Georgia-Pacific formed the Arkansas, Louisiana & Mississippi Railroad subsidiary to purchase the rail line by the same name, whose owners had been planning to abandon it. Georgia-Pacific soon began transferring southbound traffic to the AL&M's nearby tracks because the AD&N's track was steeper and more expensive to maintain.*

*On June 25, 1995, Georgia-Pacific announced that the AD&N no longer had sufficient work to justify keeping the line open. On August 15, 1995, Georgia-Pacific petitioned the Interstate Commerce Commission to abandon 35 miles of the AD&N from Monticello to Whitlow Junction, Arkansas. The ICC granted the request to abandon the Ashley, Drew and Northern, and the AD&N made its final run on June 29, 1996. (The railroad's remaining 5.7 miles of track, between Whitlow Junction and Crossett, was sold on June 30, 1996, to Georgia-Pacific-owned sister railroad Fordyce & Princeton Railroad, which had long been operating on the segment between Crossett and Whitlow Junction through trackage rights.)*

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*Cover of the November, 1901 timetable for the Toledo, St. Louis & Western Railroad, nicknamed the Clover Leaf Route. After a short but interesting history, including control of the Alton Railroad, it was absorbed into the Wabash Railroad in 1922.*

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## St. Louis Chapter NRHS 2026 Annual Membership Renewal

### St. Louis Chapter NRHS 2026 Annual Membership Renewal

You will receive a renewal notice from NRHS National separately. National offers online renewal or mail in options. You are encouraged to process your National Membership online at <https://nrhs.com/membership/membership-renewals/>

National renewals can be processed by the Chapter. If you wish to mail them together, Include the **National form & Chapter form** with your payment(s). The Chapter will forward your check and National membership form to them.

**SEPARATE CHECKS ARE REQUIRED FOR NATIONAL AND CHAPTER.**

**\*\*CHAPTER RENEWALS CAN NOW DONE ONLINE:**

**<https://www.stlouisnrhs.org/ContactUs.html>**

**An additional \$1.00 fee is charged for this service.**

It is necessary to be a member in good standing with NRHS National to also be a Chapter Member.

Regular **National** membership is \$50.00 [Additional members of your family & individuals living in the same household may also become members for just \$7.00 per year]

Student **National** Membership is \$16.00

Regular **Chapter** Membership is \$14.00 (does not include National Membership)

Student **Chapter** Membership is \$10.00 (does not include National Student Membership)

For chapter membership, please include \$1.00 extra if paying by credit card.

Make check(s) payable to:

Chapter Check - St. Louis Chapter NRHS

National Check - NRHS

Please fill out and include the included membership form(s) and mail to"

St. Louis Chapter NRHS

Membership VP

P.O. Box 220168

Kirkwood, MO 63122-0168

**\*\*RENEWALS ARE DUE BY DECEMBER 31 2025**





### St. Louis Chapter National Railway Historical Society Membership Form

Please type or print legibly, fill in all applicable data, sign and date with check or money order

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Country, if not USA	Additional Family Member Name (if joining)	
Referred for Membership in St. Louis Chapter NRHS by:		
Have you previously been a Member of the National Railway Historical Society? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Telephone	Cell	E-Mail
Occupation or Special Talents		

**Regular Membership (\$14.00 Chapter + \$50.00 National) \$64.00**

**-Additional Family Member (\$7.00 National only)**

**Student Membership (\$10.00 Chapter + \$16.00 National) \$26.00**

**\*\*\*It is necessary to be a member of NRHS National to also join a Chapter\*\***

**\*\*If you are already a National Member or have paid National dues online ([www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)) you can just send Chapter Dues\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*PLEASE SEND SEPARATE CHECKS FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL DUES\*\*\***

Remit To:  
St. Louis Chapter NRHS  
Membership VP  
PO Box 220168  
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
I agree to abide by the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Railway Historical Society

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO **THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER**, THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING CONTENT IS THE 20TH OF THE MONTH TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTH'S ISSUE. **THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER** IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY ON OR BEFORE THE 25TH OF THE MONTH. SEND YOUR ARTICLE OR PHOTOS TO

**NEWSLETTER.EXCHANGE@STLOUISNRHS.ORG.**

PHOTOS MUST HAVE A CAPTION OR GENERAL DESCRIPTION. IMAGE FILES SHOULD BE jpg, gif, png, bmp or tif FORMAT. DOCUMENT FILES CAN BE doc,

docx, or pdf.

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St. Louis Chapter NRHS  
PO Box 220168  
St. Louis, MO 63122



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