



THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER

St. Louis Chapter NRHS --- www.stlouisnrhs.org

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Burlington Junction Railway locomotives 702 and 1502 are parked in Quincy, Illinois on February 18, 2023. The 702 is an Alco C415 built in 1968 as Southern Pacific 2407 while the 1502 is a EMD SW1500 built in 1972 for the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad.

Photo by Rick Sprung

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 7:00 pm
The National Museum of Transportation
Lindburg Automobile Center, 2nd Floor

President's Message

It's a new year! I would really like to encourage all members to get more involved this year. Do you have a story to tell, or a collection to share? Please consider submitting an article, or photos to the Railletter, or consider giving a presentation at a meeting. Maybe you could help organize a tour. The Chapter can only function with your help and participation.

**Minutes From The St. Louis Chapter NRHS Monthly Meeting
Date: January 7, 2026**

The president called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

New members and guests: No new members or guests.

Motion to approve the December meeting minutes was made by Tom Binger and seconded by Eileen Weber. The motion was approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

VP Program Director — Andy Sisk: Tonight's meeting will feature a program of B&O Steam and diesel. He may contact Don Wirth for a future program.

VP Trip Director – Rick Sprung: He is looking into a Union Station tour for the spring.

VP Membership — Eileen Weber: She will put some numbers in the next newsletter.

Treasurer – Steve Siegerist: We have money. See the treasurer's report. No investment committee meeting

Secretary – Bill Heger: No report

National Advisory Committee Representative — Cliff Kierstead: No report.

Gateway Railletter Editor: Rick Sprung needs content - good photos and articles.

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

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

Parliamentarian Ron Zimmer: No report

President-David Huelsing: No report.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

News Items:

Bob Bretch will speak at the MOT on January 17 at 1:00 PM.

Steve Siegerist: The National Convention moved from Cincinnati to Columbus, Ohio in September. They wanted to be closer to the venues.

Rick Sprung: Polar Express at Union Station had another successful year. We did 157 runs over 46 days.

Andy Sisk: The Great American Train Show in St. Charles is January 24 and 25. The Kirkwood station upgrades/remodeling may be completed by April. No new information on the third train between St. Louis and Kansas City. Missouri Eastern ran a 75 car train out to Union, MO.

Cliff Kierstead: They need Kirkwood station volunteers.

The motion to adjourn was made by Eileen Weber and seconded by Seconded by Al Weber. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Submitted by: Bill Heger
Secretary, St. Louis Chapter,
National Railway Historical Society

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 form below, or via the internet using the link provided. Your membership expired 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

Another Successful Season for Polar Express at St. Louis Union Station

The Polar Express at Union Station polished the rails of the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis again in 2025. It was the eleventh year for the operation that keeps getting more and more popular. Running 157 trips to the North Pole over 46

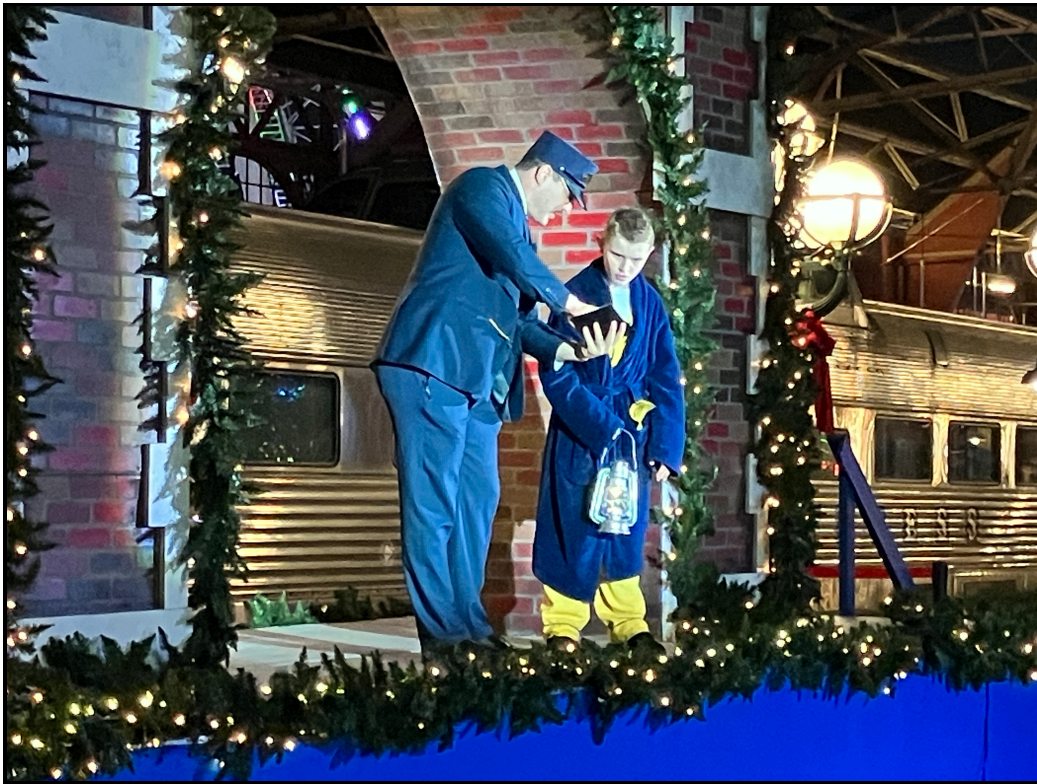
days, the Polar Express carried approximately 90,000 passengers. New this year was a tenth coach - a Comet commuter coach with 115 seats. Operated as Holiday Saver Class, the car was full or nearly full for each run.

Approximately 100 people work on the operation each night, including about 70 actors and Santa Clauses, ten car captains, hot chocolate distribution and trash pickup crews, and event management and ticketing people.

Here are a few photos from this year's operation, including some of the team of 35 car captains who assist in boarding and deboarding the passengers. All photos courtesy of Rick Sprung.







Wabash Railroad's St. Louis Delmar Station

Photos from the David Huelsing Collection, Photographer(s) Unknown

David Huelsing has provided five photos from the early days of the Wabash Railroad's (later Norfolk & Western) Delmar Station, located on Delmar Boulevard between Des Peres and Hodiamont Avenues. It was opened August 1, 1929 and closed February 14, 1970. The last train to stop at the station was the Norfolk & Western's *Cannonball* from Detroit. The N&W took over the Wabash in 1964.







GM&O Train 3 at Bloomington, Illinois

Tony Marchiando was at the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad's Bloomington, Illinois station on January 20, 1969 to record the arrival of GM&O train 2, the northbound *Abraham Lincoln*. Since Bloomington was a division point on the GM&O, all operating crews changed there.

All photos by Tony Marchiando



Gulf, Mobile & Ohio (GM&O) train #2 arriving at Bloomington IL station on January 20, 1969, pulled by a pair of E-7 diesels. The train was scheduled to leave St. Louis daily at 8:58 AM, arrive Bloomington at 11:50 AM and continue on to Chicago Union Station, arriving at 2:18 PM.



The crews changed at Bloomington, and here you can see them interacting during the 5 minute station stop. The train consist included a baggage car, coaches, a full diner, and a full 24 seat parlor car.



After the passenger train left, we drove a bit north to get this view of the extensive GM&O shops and freight yard. Lots to see in this picture, including an Alco RS1 in the foreground and an A-B-B-A set of EMD F-units by the turntable.



A Missouri Pacific memory from Valentine's Day 1925. Wonder who the children are.

Courtesy of David Huelsing / Missouri Pacific Historical Society Archives

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.

Without an editor the Gateway Railletter does not get published. We can't depend on temporary editors forever.

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. Photos must have captions or an overall description included. Image and text file requirements can be found below.

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) 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.

St. Louis Chapter NRHS
PO Box 220168
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