



THE GATEWAY RAILLETTER

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

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Southern Pacific B23-7 5106 leads a westbound Cotton Belt train on the former Rock Island line at Lackland, MO in 1986. Photo by Rick Sprung

UPCOMING CHAPTER MEETING

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

President's Message

We are in need of NON BOARD MEMBERS to be on the election nominating committee. This job does not require much time or skill. The committee needs to check with each officer if they are returning, and/or field new candidates and present a panel of candidates at the October meeting. The committee needs to be in attendance at the November meeting to manage the election.

Chapter Officer Elections

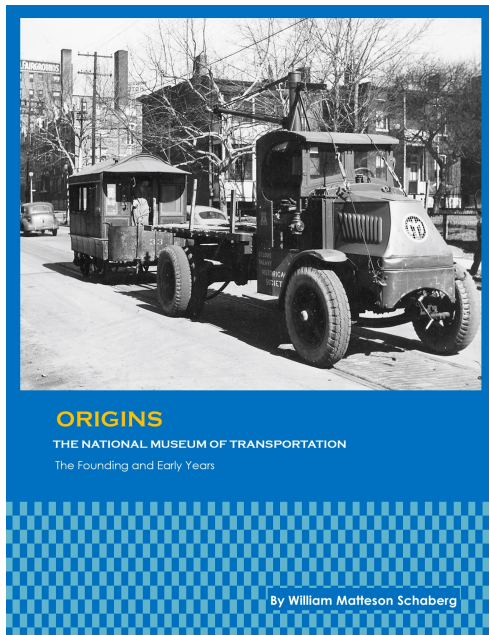
Officer elections will be held at the November chapter meeting. A nominating committee will be appointed at the August chapter meeting and will present a slate of nominees for the offices at the October chapter meeting. The committee will also conduct the chapter elections at the November meeting. The positions up for election are:

President
VP - Program Director
VP - Trip Director
VP - Membership Services
Secretary
Treasurer
Chapter Representative to the National Advisory Council

If you are interested in participating in the process or the responsibilities of each elected officer contact David Huelsing.

Origins - The National Museum of Transportation

Longtime Chapter Member William Schaberg's new book on the Origins of the National Museum of Transportation



which our Chapter helped fund is now available online and in the Museum's Gift Shop.

Proceeds benefit the Museum.

[Click Here to Order](#)

Amtrak Private Car Numbers from the Rail Passenger Car Alliance

The golden days of running private cars on Amtrak are over. The Railroad Passenger Car Alliance (RPCA) reported in their August newsletter that there have been only 35 private car moves this fiscal year (started last October 1) and only five in the month of June. Not counting railroad business cars, Amtrak says there are only 28 private cars still considered active. Additionally, Albuquerque, New Mexico, long considered by Amtrak to be "in review" has officially been eliminated as a private car destination.

Between high fees, limited train destinations and places to drop/pick up cars, and fewer places to store private cars, the industry appears to be fading.

Wallace "Wally" Dittrich

The Chapter has learned that Wallace "Wally" Dittrich passed away in July. Wally was an active St. Louis Chapter NRHS member for many years and worked as a car host on the chapter's charter train excursions from the 1980s through 2003. He was an accomplished organist, playing at the Fox Theater in St. Louis and other places.

Wally also enjoyed rebuilding classic automobiles. No obituary was available. The chapter offers its condolences to Wally's family.

to meet our representative...



...WHO TALKS YOUR LANGUAGE

Just walk in and say hello. Our representative is well acquainted with present-day traffic problems—and ready to take a special, personal interest in helping to solve yours. You can take advantage of his extraordinary knowledge and understanding gained through long experience in all phases of railroad traffic matters. Whether you need advice concerning rates, routing or service, you'll find him sincerely interested and exceptionally equipped to give friendly, personal attention to your problems. Call any time. Our representative will talk your language. Representatives located in 19 key cities throughout the United States.

Freight trains are equipped with two-way radio providing contact between train personnel.



W. L. Long
Vice President—Traffic

**RAILROAD
ILLINOIS TERMINAL
COMPANY**

GENERAL OFFICES: 710 N. 12TH BOULEVARD, ST. LOUIS 1, MISSOURI • TELEPHONE CENTRAL 5300

Illinois Terminal

The Illinois Terminal Railroad stretched from St. Louis to Decatur, Champaign and Peoria, Illinois – a regional railroad by any definition. Still, in 1954 its 355 miles of main line powered by diesel and electric locomotives warranted a full-page ad in the January issue of *Trains and Travel*. The railroad had Traffic Representatives in cities as far away as San Francisco, Atlanta and New York City. By the way, how many other regional railroads could boast two-way radios on their freight trains in the mid-1950s? *Ad from Collection of Rick Sprung*





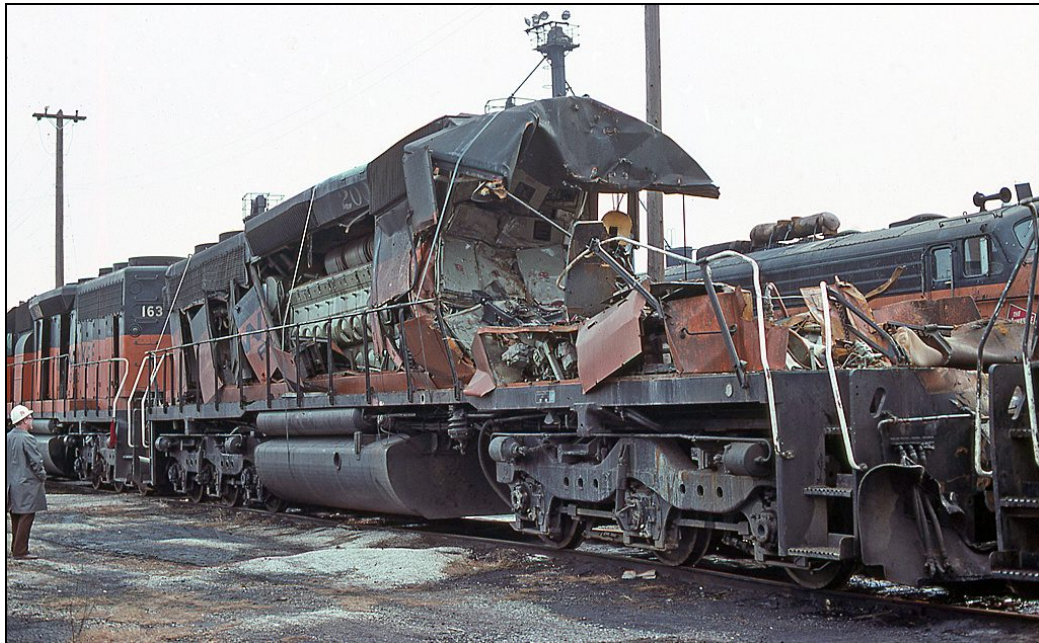
The above photos are from the October 1985 World Series Special train operated by Union Pacific from St. Louis Union Station and passing Kirkwood on its way to Kansas City. Large crowds came out to see the train on its trip. *Photographer unknown, courtesy Missouri Pacific Historical Society Archives*

Parting Shots...

Believe It or Not, It Survived

The top photo show Milwaukee Road SD40-2 200 at Milwaukee after a head-on collision in Pandora, Washington in 1977. The unit was rebuilt and became Soo Line 6387 after their acquisition of the Milwaukee Road. It was sold to Helm Leasing in 1989 where it kept the same number. Eventually the unit became Norfolk Southern SD40-3 3505, seen in the lower photo with a new "Admiral" cab at Altoona, Pennsylvania in October of 2014. Note that it still has the shorter fuel tank as built for the Milwaukee Road.

Top Photo by Tom Farence. Lower photo by Mike Fiser, Jr. Both photos collection of Rick Sprung



MINUTES FOR SLNRHS MONTHLY MEETING

DATE: August 5, 2026

Vice President Program Director Andy Sisk called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Museum of Transport.

New members and guests: None

The minutes from the July meeting were approved.

OFFICER REPORTS:

VP Program Director - Andy Sisk: Tonight's program is on Southern Railway diesels of the early 1950's.

VP Trip Director – Rick Sprung: Not present. No report.

VP Membership - Eileen Weber: Still accepting memberships. She has forms. The new membership season starts in October.

Treasurer – Steve Siegerist: We have money. See the treasurer's report.

Investment committee report: Gave report on current report on investments.

Secretary – Bill Heger: No report was given.

National Advisory Committee Representative - Cliff Kierstead: No report was given.

Railletter Editor – Rick Sprung: Not present. No report

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

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

Parliamentarian - Ron Zimmer: No action by parliamentarian.

President - David Huelsing: Not present

Old Business: None

New Business: A request was made to create a nominating committee. Kelvin Wilke volunteered. We need to find two more members.

News Items:

- Eileen Weber: National gave grant to the Museum of Transport for the Monsanto car. The next NRHS newsletter will be a printed. Bill Schaberg's book will have an order form in the issue.
- Bill Heger: Gave a report on the Illinois Railway Museum at Union, Illinois and the South Elgin Trolley Museum.
- Al Weber: Museum has signed a contract to disassemble the Frisco 200 business car for scrap. The MTTV are working on trolley extension. They are currently Running 44 and the Philadelphia PCC.
- Andy Sisk: Summer rail is going. ERA national convention will be in Evanston, Illinois. Old Threshers will be running on Labor Day. Hoosier traction will return to Indianapolis in 2027.

Held 50/50

Adjourned: 7:25 PM

Submitted by: Bill Heger, Secretary, St. Louis Chapter, 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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