



## November Meeting

The November Meeting of Heart of the Heartlands was held November 11, 2017, at the Webb Center in Carona, KS. This was also the annual meeting for the organization. There were 28 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## Motor Car Ride

The motor car ride on October 21 out of Burden, KS went well. Although there were only 3 riders in the ride, the scenery was great and everyone enjoyed the ride. The plan is to have more rides next year. Stay tuned!

## Membership Renewal

2018 Membership dues are just around the corner. Be looking for a notification in the next couple of weeks of the status of your membership dues. Please consider renewing your membership as we enter another year of preserving rail history in the four state region.

## Annual Meeting

The 2017 annual meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands Corporation was held November 11, 2017 in Carona, KS.

Tom Johnston cooked the pork butt, BBQ style. There was a wide assortment of covered dishes and desserts to top of the meal. The food was good, the conversations were great and the atmosphere was quite enjoyable. Members in attendance were: Mike & Connie Payton, Miami, OK; Guy Ferguson, Derby, KS; Gordon Garrett, Brooklin, MO; Kathy & Larry Spahn, Weir, KS; Joe Murphey, Joplin, MO; Jack Evans, Pittsburg, KS; Dick Rauniker, McCune, KS; Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Lamar, MO; Don Richardson, Chanute, KS; Dawn & Brian Carlson, Pittsburg, KS; John Shomin, Liberal, MO; Bill Gillfillan, Tulsa, OK; Suzy & Bob Still, Hot Springs, AR;



*Photo Courtesy of Larry Spahn*



*Photo Courtesy of Larry Spahn*

Bob Capps, Carthage, MO; Paige Capps, Carthage, MO; Jim McKeel, Wichita, KS; Darrell Cave & Carol Lewis, Parsons, KS; Jane Ballard, Joplin, MO; Michael Sheward, Weir, KS; Tom Johnston, Joplin, MO; John Hight, Columbus, KS; and Tony Cook, Coffeyville, KS.



*Photo Courtesy of Larry Spahn*

### What is it?

This is an item that is currently located in the Carona museum. What is it?

Answer next month



Photo courtesy of Brian Carlson

Last Month's picture was a display case containing many KCS items on loan to Heart of the Heartlands. The collection is from James Conrad, Pittsburg, KS, in memory of his son Jim.

### Slide Show

The slide show on October 28 was well attended with over 20 people in attendance. There were many interesting pictures of area railroads shown with several comments from the audience. Thank you to Dick Rauniker for sandwiches at the slide show.

## Board of Directors

At the 2017 Annual Meeting of Heart of the Heartlands Corporation the membership voted to retain the three board members whose terms were expiring. After the meeting, the board members in attendance voted to retain the officer positions as listed below.

Heart of the Heartlands Corporation Board Members, Officers and Term Expiration Dates

#### December 2018

Brian Carlson, Secretary/Treasurer, Alan Chilton, Connie Payton

#### December 2019

Tom Johnston, John Chambers, Vice-President, Bob Capps

#### December 2020

Darrell Cave, Jack Evans, Larry Spahn, President

## Smokey Valley RR

The Abilene & Smokey Valley Railroad left Abilene, KS Thursday morning, November 16 headed to Opolis, KS with the custom trailer that they had built to pick up an Alco S4 that was at the Empire District Electric Plant there. The electric company had originally donated the Alco to the Heart of the Heartlands, but we were unable to move it to Carona. We then donated it to the A&SV RR for their excursion train in Abilene. They built a blue custom trailer to load the Alco onto for the trip back to Abilene. Once there, they plan to get it operational for service on their excursion railroad. The trailer arrived in Opolis on Thursday afternoon. In a couple of weeks, weather permitting, the Alco will be on the trailer and headed to its new home.



Photo Courtesy of Brian Carlson

## Grass Mowing

Larry made one last mowing of the grounds on Sunday, November 5. Hopefully the recent frosts will put off further mowing till next spring. Thanks goes out to all those who took time to help keep the grounds looking great.

## Display cases

Tammy Crowell called and requested a donation letter for the items that were donated to the museum. Larry wrote and took a letter to her acknowledging the donations from her store.

## Thank You

A huge thank you goes out to Tom Johnston for cooking the meat for the annual dinner. Barbecued pork butt was the meat of the day. Tom spent the early hours of the morning on November 11 preparing the meat for the annual meeting dinner that afternoon. As always, it was great! Thanks again Tom!

## KCS Holiday Express

The KCS Holiday Express will be in Pittsburg the evening of December 13. If you are interested in being an elf for the train, contact Larry or Brian.

## Passenger Cars

As of the meeting, the passenger cars had made it to Cherryvale. Brad Snow reported that the toilets will be dumped, drained, and anti-freeze added and pumped through the pump assemblies. The coaches have not been in their off-season home here in Carona since April. Once they return, minor repairs and maintenance will be performed. The hope is that will be before it gets too cold.

### Passenger Car Update!

The cars are back in Carona! The cars arrived the morning of November 22 and were spotted back on their siding at the museum complex.



*Photo Courtesy of Larry Spahn*

## KCS Conductor Uniform

A complete KCS Conductor's uniform including the vest, buttons, and has has been donated to the museum. The donation was made during the recent slide show by Bob Gibson from Appleton City, Missouri. The uniform was his father, Carl W. Gibson. Carl worked for the KCS Railroad from 1935 to 1976. The uniform is to be from 1966 as designated inside the pocket. Thanks to Bob Gibson for the donation and John Chambers in his work in obtaining it.



*Photo Courtesy of John Chambers*

## Heartlands Web Site

Jim McKeel reports that the number of visitors to our site averages over 200 per month. During the meeting, discussion was held in regards to possibly having online donations, membership payments as well as maybe ticket purchases online in the future.

## Chanute Artist Alley Train Ride

Brad Snow called and said that he had received a check from the Chanute Main Street Inc. made out to the Heartlands for \$400.00 for our staffing of the train rides during the Artist Alley event.

## Motor Car Repair Update

Joe Murphey reports that the motor car is mostly disassembled and that media blasting has begun. He also reported that the car will be powder coated when completed. As a reminder, the car will be static display at the museum once the project is completed.

## Announcements

- There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be January 10, 2018 at the Webb Center in Carona, KS.

## Boston Depot Repair

Russ Green and his son came out to the museum Sunday, November 5th and began work on the Boston Depot. He covered the many woodpecker holes in the walls and overhangs of the building. He also removed the signs and placed them inside the depot. He intends to power wash the entire building before he paints. He will also power wash the deck and apply an oil based sealer. Russ will also replace all of the rotted and broken boards around the windows and other places. The work will be done as Mr. Green has time on the weekends. He said that if the weather co-operates it shouldn't take too long. He noted all of the woodpecker damage on the Boston depot compared to none on the Carona depot and strongly suggested that we paint the Boston depot the same color in an effort to keep the bird damage from continuing. He thinks the light yellow color may be what is attracting them. It would be worth a try and will also match the rest of the buildings. He said that the green trim is a color prone to fading. After discussion by the members present at the annual meeting, it was decided to paint the Boston Depot in the same scheme as the Carona Depot.



## Service Award Donation

Art Hartshorne of Pittsburg has donated to the Heartland museum an Appreciation of Service award that was given to his father, A.A. Hartshorne for 46 years of engine service with the KCS Railroad. He started his career as a hostler at the early age of sixteen, as he fbbbed about his age so he actually has more years of service. Arthur was involved in steam and the transition to diesel power. His middle name was "Alco". He was stationed in Pittsburg and was engineer on the Southern Belle and Flying Crow and countless freight trains over his years of service. He was vetted to be the engineer for Harry Truman's 1948 "Whistle Stop Express" from Pittsburg to Kansas City.



## November 11, 2017 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

Meeting was brought to order by President Larry Spahn. Ivan Vorhees moved to suspend the meeting to enjoy the dinner, Darrell Cave seconded the motion. Motion to suspend passed. Meeting was suspended at 1:02. Everyone enjoyed the meal. Meeting resumed at 2:01.

**Minutes of October meeting:** Darrell Cave moved to approve the October minutes as mailed. John Shomin seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Brian Carlson presented the treasurer's report. The report included transactions from the past month as well as a report of the year from November 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017. Don Richardson moved to accept the treasurer's report. Darrell Cave seconded the motion, motion passed.

### Old Business:

**Passenger Cars:** The passenger cars have made it as far as Cherryvale and Brad Snow reports that the toilets will be dumped, drained and anti-freeze added and pumped through the pump assemblies. The coaches have not been back to Carona since the spring rides in April. Hopefully they will be back soon so we can get a lot of the minor repairs done before it gets too cold.

**Chanute Artist Alley Train Rides:** Brad Snow called and said that he had received a check from the Chanute Main Street Inc. made out to the Heartlands for \$400.00 for the Heartlands' staffing of the train rides for their Artist Alley event.

**Motor Car Rides:** The motor car ride over the Grand Summit went off without any problems. All those in the ride enjoyed the trip. The hope is to have more rides next year.

**Slide Show:** The October 28<sup>th</sup> slide show was well attended with over twenty persons present. There were many interesting pictures of area railroads shown with several comments from the audience.

**KCS Conductor Uniform Donation:** A complete conductor's uniform including the vest, buttons and hat has been donated to the museum. According to John Chambers, Bob Gibson donated the uniform that his father, Carl Gibson wore while working for the KCS. Bob worked for over 40 years for the KCS. A big Heartland thank you to John Chambers for his work in keeping all of the displays and artifacts in order.

### New Business:

**Museum Donation:** Art Hartshorne of Pittsburg has donated to the Heartland museum an Appreciation of Service award that was given to his father, A.A. Hartshorne for 46 years of engine service with the KCS Railroad. He started his career as a hostler at the early age of sixteen, as he fibbed about his age so he actually has more years of service. Arthur was involved in steam and the transition to diesel power. His middle name was "Alco". He was stationed in Pittsburg and was engineer on the Southern Belle and Flying Crow and countless freight trains over his years of service. He was vetted to be the engineer for Harry Truman's 1948 "Whistle Stop Express" from Pittsburg to Kansas City.

**Motor Car Repair:** Joe Murphy reported that the motor car was mostly disassembled. The media blasting had started on the car. It will be powder coated. Discussion was held about using plexiglass for the windshield.

**Boston Depot Repair:** Russ Green and his son came out to the museum Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and began work on the Boston Depot. He covered the many woodpecker holes in the walls and overhangs of the building. He also removed the signs and placed them inside the depot. He intends to power wash the entire building

before he paints. He will also power wash the deck and apply an oil based sealer. Russ will also replace all of the rotted and broken boards around the windows and other places. The work will be done as Mr. Green has time on the weekends. He said that if the weather co-operates it shouldn't take too long. He noted all of the woodpecker damage on the Boston depot compared to none on the Carona depot and strongly suggested that we paint the Boston depot the same color in an effort to keep the bird damage from continuing. He thinks the light yellow color may be what is attracting them. It would be worth a try and will also match the rest of the buildings. He said that the green trim is a color prone to fading. Discussion was held by the membership present. Don Richardson moved to paint the Boston Depot in the same color scheme as the Carona Depot. Ivan Vorhees seconded the motion, motion passed.

### **Correspondence:**

**Display cases:** Tammy Crowell called and requested a donation letter for the items that was donated to the museum. She asked for two but Larry only wrote one and delivered it to her residence. Larry did not include any of the display cases that were purchased by Heart of the Heartlands.

**KCS Holiday Express:** Anyone interested in helping out with the train when it comes to Pittsburg on December 13, please let Brian or Larry know so we can inform them how many elves we will be able to provide. If you haven't done this before now is your chance.

**Heartlands Web Site:** Our web site activity continues to be very brisk and has proved to be an excellent investment in getting the Heartlands known to the rest of the world. Jim McKeel reports that we have at least 200 visits per day. Discussion was also held in regards to possibly setting up online donations, the ability to pay memberships online and perhaps at some point having ticket sales online. These things will be looked into at the start of the year.

**Grass Mowing:** Hopefully the freeze we had recently has put an end to the grass mowing. Larry came out on Sunday to open things up for Russ Green and mowed the grass one last time, hopefully. Many thanks to all of the members that donated their time to come out and help with the mowing. It takes about three hours to mow everything and the grounds really look good. We have had several compliments on our museum and display appearance.

**December Meeting:** John Shomin moved to not have the December meeting. Jack Evans seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Tom Johnston:** A big Heartland thank you to Tom for preparing the bar-B-que pork. He came early the morning of the annual meeting to cook it for us. Tom has volunteered to do this for the past several years. It is a lot of work and takes time to do it right according to Tom. In the past, Dave Parker has assisted Tom with the cooking. John Chambers set up the tables and chairs and thanks was given to all who brought a covered dish.

### **Additional Items:**

- John Hight from the Columbus News Report suggested that a ride next June on the 22nd or 23rd would be nice to have in conjunction with the Columbus all school reunion & sesquicentennial.
- A new microwave was added to the museum building

**Election of Board Members:** John Shomin moved to retaking the three board members whose terms were expiring at the end of 2017 to positions back on the board by acclamation. Don Richardson seconded the motion, motion passed.

After the regular meeting, the Board members held their annual meeting and elected the Board Officers. Larry Spahn will continue to be president, John Chambers vice-president and Brian Carlson secretary/Treasurer.

Jack Evans moved to adjourn the meeting, Darrell Cave seconded the motion, motion passed.