



## October Meeting

The October meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on October 9, 2024 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 17 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Jack Evans, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Paul Morgan, Jim McKeel, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Michael Sheward, Rob McKnight, Connie & Mike Payton, John & Brenda Randall, Darrell Cave, Brian Carlson, and Ed Brinkmeyer.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 1:00 pm, November 9, 2024 at the Webb Center in Carona. This is the annual dinner meeting. We will eat at 12:00 pm with the meeting to start at 1:00 pm.

## Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDIf\\_ezgw3UyQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDIf_ezgw3UyQ)

## Artist Alley Train Rides

Saturday, September 28th was the Artist Alley event in Chanute, Ks. As has been the custom for many, many years, there were train rides departing from the former Santa Fe Depot near downtown. This year there were two rides instead of three. The two rides were well attended with 293 passengers on the 9:30 am ride and 306 passengers on the 1:00 pm ride. Both trains were full and then some. The number of passengers was more than we normally have on a ride and with it came a few problems we normally do not have. The last ride had a handful of people, even though they had paid for tickets, exited the train due to the crowded cars. We are working on options to help alleviate the overcrowding on future rides. Heartland members working as car attendants on the ride were Michael Sheward, Jack Evans, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Rob McKnight, Don Richardson, Brian Carlson and Kathy and Larry Spahn.

## December Train Rides

The annual Watco Christmas train rides for the Crawford County 1st graders will take place on Monday, December 9th. There will be two rides with the first leaving at 9:00 am and the second one leaving at 10:30 am. The departure point will be at the usual location at the intersection of Elm and Monroe Streets.

## Annual Meeting

The Heart of the Heartlands annual meeting will be held on Saturday, November 9. Lunch will begin at 12:00 pm with the Italian meal being provided by Palluccas in Frontenac. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. Some of the members will be bringing salads or desserts. Any member that wishes to come and wants to bring something can bring a dessert or other small side. Your presence is enough for us, bringing a food item is not mandatory.

## From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

*These pictures were taken in January of 2004 during the construction of the first building of the Webb Center. The first one is prior to the carpet being laid. The second one is during the carpet being installed.*

- Larry Spahn photos



## Announcements

- Darrell Cave has completed and submitted our application to the state of Kansas to have a sign installed on K-7 highway announcing our presence. It is now in the hands of the state for review and acceptance. We have been informed this make take a few months.

### Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

[bcarlson@ckt.net](mailto:bcarlson@ckt.net)

620-820-9665 (leave message)

## Museum Director Report for September

John Chambers' museum and visitors report:

- Had a total of 159 visitors from the 4-state region and other areas.
- Included in the group of visitors were 40 kids and adults from Pittsburg homeschool.
- September 28-29th was the Overland Rally at Big Brutus.
- John also discussed with the group the recent donation of number board #143.
- Mentioned that Heartland member Paul Morgan donated some more items to the Heartlands.
- John mentioned the thank you that was received from the Boy Scouts that stayed at Carona during the Labor Day weekend.

## Rob McKnight - Springfield Show

Rob McKnight recently attended a train show in Springfield, MO on September 21st. The show was a two day show, with 655 people attending on Friday and 845 on Saturday. The show was held at the fairgrounds, in a show barn. There was no AC and the ventilation fans were not working. There were thunderstorms during set up time and the temperature was in the 90's with a heat index of 96. Traffic dropped off around noon with only one sale after 11:00 am. Thus sales were \$107. According to Rob, visiting with others at the show, it appeared that Friday night sales were much stronger. Even though the heat was a factor and sales light, Rob recommends this show for next year as the organizers are looking for a different venue. He made contacts with numerous people that are interested in visiting Carona. He also left rack cards with the Springfield railroad museum and the A&M Railroad. There were also quite a few items donated to the museum.

Rob has donated a great deal of his personal time, travel expense and energy attending various train shows throughout the 4-state area this year. He has been an ambassador to the Heartlands in so many ways. Through his hard work, he has introduced numerous individuals to our museum's existence here in the deep coal mining history of Southeast Kansas. It is with great appreciation and gratitude that the Heart of the Heartlands expresses its thanks to Rob McKnight.

### Heart of the Heartlands

6769 NW 20th St.

Scammon, KS 66773

Phone: 620-448-1065

## October 9, 2024 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The October 9, 2024 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Darrell pointed out that in the last month's minutes, it was mentioned that he had submitted a sign proposal to the state. He had not submitted anything at this time. Jack Evans moved to accept the minutes as mailed and corrected. Darrell Cave seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** After the presentation of the treasurer's report, John Chambers moved and Darrell Cave seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Artist Alley Rides:**

The two rides were well attended with 293 passengers on the 9:30 am ride and 306 passengers on the 1:00 pm ride. Both trains were full and then some. It was discussed that the usual number of 80 passengers per car needs to be re-established as there were passengers that exited the train before it departed due to the crowded conditions. Heartland members working as car attendants on the ride were Michael Sheward, Jack Evans, Denzil and Ivan Voorhees, Rob McKnight, Don Richardson, Brian Carlson and Kathy and Larry Spahn.

#### **Motion Sensor:**

Secretary-Treasurer, Brian Carlson along with John Chambers, mentioned that the motion sensor in the media-meeting area of the museum was not working properly. Darrell Cave moved to replace the motion sensor in the media-meeting area. Michael Sheward seconded the motion and it was passed by the members present.

#### **Signage Program:**

Darrell discussed with the group information needed to complete the form to send to the state to request signs for our museum along nearby Kansas highways. It was agreed on by the group that we will be called the "Heartlands Railroad Museum". After gathering the information for the forms, Darrell would be completing the forms and submitting them to the state.

#### **Train Show Report:**

Rob McKnight reported on the train show he had attended. He was at Springfield, MO on September 21. The show was a two day show, with 655 people attending on Friday and 845 on Saturday. The show was held at the fairgrounds, in a show barn. There was no AC and the ventilation fans were not working.

There were thunderstorms during set up time and the temperature was in the 90's with a heat index of 96. Traffic dropped off around noon with only one sale after 11:00 am. Thus sales were \$107. According to Rob, visiting with others at the show, it appeared that Friday night sales were much stronger. Even though the heat was a factor and sales light, Rob recommends this show for next year as the organizers are looking for a different venue. He made contacts with numerous people that are interested in visiting Carona. He also left rack cards with the Springfield railroad museum and the A&M Railroad. There were also quite a few items donated to the museum.

## **New Business:**

### **T-Shirts:**

Darrell Cave reported that we are good for now with T-shirts. More discussion will be held in the future in regards to T-Shirts moving forward.

### **December Train Rides:**

The 2024 Watco Santa Express Train ride will be held on Monday, December 9. Two trains are scheduled to depart from the usual boarding area at the intersection of Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg. The first train will leave at 9:00 am while the second one will depart at 10:30 am.

### **Monthly Museum and Visitors Report:**

John Chambers gave his museum and visitors report:

- Had a total of 159 visitors from the 4-state region and other areas.
- Included in the group of visitors were 40 kids and adults from Pittsburg homeschool.
- September 28-29th was the Overland Rally at Big Brutus.
- John also discussed with the group the recent donation of number board #143.
- Mentioned that Heartland member Paul Morgan donated some more items to the Heartlands.
- John mentioned the thank you that was received from the Boy Scouts that stayed at Carona during the Labor Day weekend.

### **Heartlands Annual Meeting:**

Discussion was held in regards to the meal for the annual meeting. John Chambers moved to have Palluccas in Frontenac cater the meal, Jim McKell seconded the motion which was passed by the members present. The dinner will start at 12:00 pm November 9, at Carona. The meeting will follow starting at 1:00 pm.

### **Other Items:**

- Rob McKnight installed a section of plexiglass on the model railroad display. He plans on shortening it from 18" to 9" for more practical use with the display.
- Rob is also working on a sign for the Morgan Addition.
- Discussion was also held in regards to barriers of some sort in the depots to prevent people from going in places we wish for them not to go.

- Larry mentioned a letter received from the Rural Water District #4 about lead and copper pipe survey they were conducting.
- Secretary-Treasurer Brian Carlson asked the group if it would be beneficial to investigate possible other investment opportunities for some of the Heartland's CD's. He was encouraged to find out more.

John Chambers moved to adjourn the meeting. Rob McKnight seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.