



**Friends of L&N Depot  
Newsletter**



**This January we unveiled  
our 2022 Campaign  
“Step Right Up”**

This past August, one set of steps for the Presidential Office Car, had rusted and fallen off. Fortunately, through our fundraising efforts, we raised \$3,500 to have them repaired. This brought to our attention that we must follow up on plans that were started several years ago—building a cover to help protect our rail cars. Sitting on a static track and being exposed to the elements is hard on these precious pieces of history.

Our goal is to raise \$50,000 with this campaign. As of today, there is 37% pledged toward this target. What are our plans for the \$50,000?

- \$10,000 to paint the tops of the rail cars. This is a special paint that acts as a sealant and similar to paint used on mobile homes
- \$10,000 in annual rail car maintenance. Fixing the rail cars is an ongoing necessity and often require custom made replacements.
- \$30,000 to bring on Omni Architects, a firm familiar with our property and its historical significance. Their task is to design a structure to completely cover the rail cars, create a space to rent and generate revenue, and be aesthetically pleasing. Once these plans are complete, a realistic cost estimate will be available for the next step.

**There are three ways you can help!  
Big Top Club—\$1,000**

**Member Benefits:** Your name on a plaque next to the Circus Train Exhibit, embroidered blanket, and Commemorative Ornament.

**Ring Master Club—\$25.00 monthly gift**

**Member Benefits:** RailPark Tee Shirt and Commemorative Ornament

**Step Right Up Club—\$25.00 Donation**

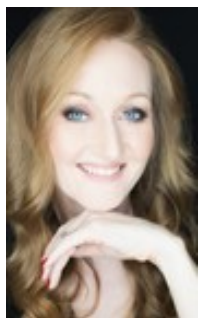
**Member Benefits:** 2022 Commemorative Ornament

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## *From the Director*



With our ever changing world we have made it a priority to stay focused on our mission to preserve the story of passenger travel. We do this through guided tours of our railcars and museum exhibit displays. We are currently working to install our Circus Train exhibit and plan to unveil this newest exhibit at our annual fundraiser, **RailPark Rendezvous** this fall, September 15th.

The theme for the new exhibit has been carried into our 2022 campaign, Step Right Up and Support the RailPark. In this newsletter, you will find information on how you can join and help us with our next BIG goal, to cover the rail cars. We are very excited to be in the early research and planning stage of this project.

Over the past several years we have brought many new events to the RailPark and plan to continue many of those events this year. Coming up is our annual **BG Wine Fest** on July 9th. This year's event will feature a new VIP option. With limited tickets available, you will want to snag your tickets early.

We expect summer travel to be very popular again this summer. Road trips have become a more viable option for many families with the events of the past few years. This is the perfect time to visit the RailPark with your family. Please consider bringing your out of town guests to our local gem and take a tour. If you do not already have a membership, this is a great investment as it allows you to bring guest with complimentary access. And your membership supports our efforts. I invite you to join our RailPark family.

*Jamie Johnson,  
Executive Director*



## **Friends of the L&N Depot Board of Directors**

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**Dick Webber**  
Retired—Autobody Repair Industry

**Rick Williams**  
Retired

Our newest board members include:  
Larry Snyder, Lori Million, David Daughdrill



## Welcome Joelle Dalke

The first week for this new year, I became a part of the team at the Historic RailPark & Train Museum as the Special Events & Rental Coordinator. I am responsible for the planning, coordination, and execution of the many special events hosted at the Depot. Romance at the RailPark, BG Wine Fest, RailPark Rendezvous, and Polar Express, just to name a few are significant events for the RailPark as well as unique experiences with lasting memories for so many in our community. I am thrilled to work on these events!

Along with all of the fun little details of event planning, I coordinate the rentals we host at the Depot, from the Grand Lobby and the Meeting Room to the Duncan Hines Diner car. It is wonderful to see families and friends gather at this charming, 97 year-old landmark to celebrate birthdays, baby showers, bridal showers, and especially weddings. We also rent our spaces for business meetings, and I coordinate all group tours and fieldtrips. I feel honored to be a part of this special place, where the stories of passenger travel on the railcars are told.

### **Would you tell us a little bit about your background, education, and experience?**

My husband and I decided it was time for a new adventure, after living off the grid the past six years, to make the move to Kentucky to be closer to his family! The South is a brand new experience for me. I grew up in Reno, Nevada where I earned a Bachelors' Degree from the University of Nevada, Reno in Journalism and Public Relations with a Minor in Dance. While attending school I also became a certified Personal Trainer and had the pleasure of training all types of clients for nearly ten years. My experience also includes being a Store Manager for a women's clothing boutique in Utah, selling Native American jewelry at a trading post on Main Street in Park City, Utah with my husband, as well as owning and operating two of my own businesses with my husband— a dogsled touring company and a private gym in Arizona.

### **What interests and/or hobbies do you have?**

I am thankful for the experiences I have had with running sled dogs, breeding husky puppies, living on an 8,000 acre ranch with 32 horses, having Icelandic sheep, and chickens! Clearly, I am an animal lover! Most of all, I enjoy spending my free time with my husband who is my best friend and incredible partner. Hiking, cooking, listening to instrumental music, crafting, and traveling are some of my interests.

### **How would one contact you?**

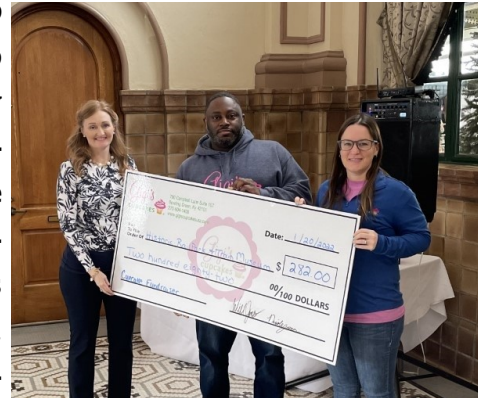
You can call me at the Historic RailPark at 270-745-7317, or email me at: [events@historicrailpark.com](mailto:events@historicrailpark.com)

If you have any questions regarding rentals, are interested in volunteering for an event, or have suggestions for events, please feel free to reach out! I look forward to seeing you next time you visit the Depot!

## 2021 Birthday Club a Success

By Jessica Warren

“All Aboard...A Railcar Celebration” is just what we needed to move us out of the slump of the pandemic. We found 12 reasons to celebrate this past year with the creation of our 2021 Birthday Club Campaign. Spotlighting the many milestones and anniversaries throughout the year was a way to get our message out to the community and to visitors about all we have to offer at the Historic Railpark & Train Museum. We also wanted to show supporters and visitors how they could get involved and support our efforts. 183 supporters joined our 2021 Birthday Club helping us to accomplish our goal of raising \$21,000! This commitment to preserving



Bowing Green's history allowed us to highlight 5 of our railcars that celebrated major milestones in 2021. Our objective for 2021 had been to share our message about our continued effort to preserve history. The campaign allowed us the opportunity to continue to build awareness of our mission and renewed excitement to visit our attraction. Gigi's Cupcakes owner, Will Jones, agreed to work with us on a yearlong fundraising and campaign promotion. We all ate a lot of cupcakes in an effort to support the RailPark. We have had more fun with this light-hearted campaign and probably caused a few waistlines to increase just a bit because of all the cupcakes! But we know it was worth it!

## Romance at the RailPark 2022

Another successful year at the “Dirty Dancing” themed event! Staff, volunteers and supporters came together for 3 evenings of dining, wine, and dancing !



# Annual Membership

*Thank you for being a  
Friend of the L&N Depot!*

## **\$35 Train Master**

- Admission to railcars and museum for one person, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- 10% gift shop discount

## **\$65 Yard Master**

- Admission to railcars and museum for four people, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- Early invitation to special events, including Polar Express
- 20% gift shop discount

## **\$100 Engineer**

- Admission to railcars and museum for eight people, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- Early invitation to special events, including Polar Express
- 20% gift shop discount

## **\$150 Conductor**

- Admission to railcars and museum for eight people, for one year
- Free quarterly newsletter
- Early invitation to special events, including Polar Express
- 20% gift shop discount
- 10% rental space discount
- Admission to over 680 NARM museums (North American Reciprocal Museum Association) for one year

## Member Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Membership ☐ Membership Renewal

Please make check out to **Historic Railpark** and mail to:  
**401 Kentucky St. Suite B. Bowling Green, KY 42101**  
You can also purchase a membership on our website!



**The BG Wine Fest**  
**Saturday, July 9th**  
**12pm to 6pm**

Tickets will be available the first week of May! This year, we are offering a limited number of VIP tickets!

A variety of wineries from the Kentucky Winery Association will offer tastings, as well as selling wine by the glass and bottle.

There will be live music entertainment throughout the day, food trucks, and several homemade craft vendors to shop from!

For more information, visit our website [historicrailpark.com](http://historicrailpark.com) and follow us on social. We will post updates on our Facebook to the Wine Fest Event page.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event, we would love your help! You can call us at 270-745-7317 or email our Events Coordinator, Joelle, [events@historicrailpark.com](mailto:events@historicrailpark.com).

We can't wait to see you on July 9th!



# Remembering Pat O'Rourke

By Dick Webber

About the time he retired from Sears, Pat decided that he wanted to play with his toy trains. At that time the sHOW Modular Railroad Club was ending its stay at the B.R.I.M.S. Museum on Center St. and preparing to move to the new L&N Depot location. In early 2007 Pat joined the Club and he found out what Friends of L&N Depot were doing to create a brand-new Museum and train consist. He liked what he saw. That was a lucky day for the Depot!



In early 2007 the Museum and Gift Shop build out was in full swing, and construction of the benchwork for the sHOW Club layout was underway as well. Outside, volunteers were busy repairing the rusted out RPO roof, and sandblasting and painting the car. Pat occupied himself helping with the museum buildout. When RPO interior work began Pat was on the job almost every weekday piecing the burn damaged floor together, refinishing the overhead boxes and more. That continued through 2008 and 2009. Pat was invited to join the Friends of L&N Depot Board in April 2009, and in 2014 became Restoration Chairman. In the summer of 2009, Pat, Donnie Firkins, and Dorian Walker went to Steamtown in Pennsylvania to salvage interior parts needed to finish the RPO. They came back very hot and dirty, bringing a box truck full of RPO treasures necessary to complete the restoration. That summer became a sprint to finish the car in time for its October 27, 2009, dedication. Work then turned to construction of the engine interior displays. Adrian Garner and Pat worked together on the interior, and Jim Lockwood ran the electric service for the unit.

Through the years, Pat set up thousands of chairs and tables for Depot events, ran errands, cut the grass, even performing janitorial duties when there was no budget for one. There were many other restoration and building maintenance chores as well.

A new and daunting challenge was the unexpected acquisition of Glasgow Railway Co. 109, the Jim Crow car. By late 2010 and into 2011 volunteers moved the car to a siding at Glasgow Depot for sandblasting, painting, and preparation for transport to Bowling Green. In August the car was transported to Trace Die Cast for an 18-month complete reconstruction. Pat was there every day to coordinate volunteer work, accomplishing tasks we would have to pay the Contractor to perform. And painting. Endless painting! Moving day of the beautiful rebuilt car was February 11, 2013.

Pat was on the crew dispatched to Louisville to evaluate the Hospital Car, and in 2011 it was moved to the Depot. The restoration crew installed HVAC and electric service, while work on the windows was being done. When budgets allowed, Pat, Jim, Dick, and Adrian prepared the car for painting. The remaining side was repainted in 2020 and Pat, then undergoing treatment, saw to installing the lettering and completing the exterior. This would be his last project.

Pat O'Rourke gave Historic Railpark & Train Museum the gift of himself for uncounted thousands of hours in the completion of all kinds of useful tasks in the 15 years we shared. He touched every area of the Depot, grounds, and Railcars. Thank you, Pat! You are a true and proven Friend of the L&N Depot!

## Museum Update

Glen Browning donated a Railroad Track Gauge and Level to the Railpark Museum. This vintage item has been added to the "Business of the Railroad" exhibit on the second floor of the museum.

A Railroad Track Gauge and level was used to check the gauge of a railroad track and measure rail superelevation on curves.

The small railroad cast iron caboose coal stove has been moved to the second floor of the Rail-Park Museum.

## There are so many ways to support the RailPark!

KY Gives Day is May 10th. What is KY Gives Day? It is an annual day of online giving which brings charities and Kentuckians, near and far, together for a powerful day of action and philanthropy. While this is the 10th year celebrating KY Gives Day, this is only the second year for us to participate. Keep an eye on your email and our social media for more information and how to participate.



Did you know that you must renew your Community Rewards Selection every August? You do! You can see in the app who you are supporting—so double check that you have renewed. A portion of your spending will be donated to us each quarter when you designate Historic Railpark & Train Museum. Thank you for supporting us!



Help the RailPark when you shop! All you need to do is go to [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and log into your Amazon account like normal. You can choose Friends of L&N Depot Inc. Your prices are the same, your

selection is the same, just Amazon gives .5% of your eligible purchases back to the RailPark! It's an easy way to help the RailPark without even lifting a finger!



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401 Kentucky Street, Suite B  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

**For the latest information on events and happenings at the RailPark, follow us on social media. The RailPark proudly boasts a 23,500 person social media audience.**



**Facebook:**

Historic RailPark and Train Museum -Bowling Green  
L&N Depot

Unseen Bowling Green

**Instagram:**

@historic\_railpark\_

@unseenbg

**Twitter:**

@LNdepot

@unseenbg

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Business memberships are available and they come with great benefits! Please call Jessica Warren at **270-745-7317** or email **JWarren@historicrailpark.com** for more info.