



Volume 12 Issue 2  
Summer 2022

## Friends of L&N Depot Newsletter



## Celebrating a Milestone Achievement!

By Jessica Warren

In early June we achieved the first milestone goal of \$50,000 in our Step Right Up Campaign! Thanks to all who have donated! We have been able to get the architect and structural engineering team started on the plans and costs for the cover. We have contacted the painters and they will be painting the roofs of the cars this fall when it cools off. Lastly, we have been able to do some regular maintenance on the cars like fixing broken windows, replacing door seals, window seals, air filters, and fixing the air conditioning, making the tours much more comfortable.

We do still have 5 memberships available in the Big Top Club. Fans who join the Big Top Club with a \$1,000 donation will see their name displayed on the Circus Train Exhibit through 2025!

We have increased the goal to \$65,000 by adding a project that started several years ago, but due to a lack of funding, was not completed. This is the restoration of the Towering Pine Sleeper Car. We have 6 seats on this nearly 70-year-old car that need to be reupholstered as the foam has deteriorated and the fabric is torn and faded. The cost to sponsor a seat is \$1,500. When you sponsor a seat on the Towering Pine your name will be placed on the seat. You will also be gifted a membership to the Museum.

We are still accepting \$25 Step Right Up donations as well as \$25 Ring Master monthly recurring donations. These donations will go toward other projects on the car that need to be completed, such as applying a sealant to the exterior of the car as well as completing some partially sponsored seats.

Click this link to donate: <https://app.donorview.com/zGLjb>

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***From the Director—Jamie Johnson***



Nothing brings me greater joy when I walk into the RailPark than to see volunteers. Always smiling, always willing to help in any way and always here to serve our mission. As many of you know, we have been blessed over the years with so many phenomenal and talented individuals.

When you walk alongside the vintage railcars that grace the static track next to the historic L&N Depot, you are in the presence of excellence. The museum opened its doors to the general public for complimentary tours in 2007 and we've been welcoming the community ever since. It's a wonder how this place has come so far from a dilapidate building and place you did not dare visit after dark, to a thriving tourist attraction and a pillar of the historic preservation community in Bowling Green. After all the L&N Railroad is the reason our town is so prosperous today.

While I was not here from the beginning, we still have a few volunteers from the early days, that continue to give of their time and talent. On May 10, 2022 we welcomed the first four members into our newly created group, Emeritus Board Members. I have been fortunate to know and work alongside these great volunteers who have served in a variety of capacities including as board members. If you see them out and about, please be sure to thank them for their contribution to the RailPark.

Friends of L&N Depot Board Service Years:

Rick Williams—19 years, Dick Webber—19 years,  
Leo Eggleton—10 years, Jim Lockwood—11 years



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

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# 

The BG Wine Fest sponsored by **Bluegrass Clinics** is approaching fast! Join the Historic RailPark with the Kentucky Wineries Association on Saturday, July 9th 11am to 6pm! Tickets are available now and selling out fast, so grab yours while you can!

New to BG Wine Fest 2022, is the VIP ticket option! This is an upgraded experience, and we are offering a limited number of VIP tickets! VIP ticket holders will have additional sampling tickets for exclusive samples that will not be available to general admission ticket holders.

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 media. We will be posting more updates as we announce our wineries and craft vendors!

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, Meagan, [events@historicrailpark.com](mailto:events@historicrailpark.com).

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

## 

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## 

The Historic RailPark & Museum would like to welcome Meagan Ravenscraft to the team. Meagan is from Hebron, KY located near Cincinnati, OH. Not long after graduating from WKU in May, with a degree in Communication Studies and minors in Event Planning and American Sign Language, she began working with us. Meagan brings excitement and practical knowledge to her job, and she looks forward to working with the community to schedule special events and meetings at the historic L&N Depot.



# Christmas in July

Historic RailPark & Train Museum will kick off a Christmas in July promotion held July 1-25, 2022. This promotion includes a membership sale, offering 20% off all membership levels, a Polar Express prize pack and an opportunity to win a membership that includes *Polar Express* Storytime tickets. This year the RailPark will host the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual storytime reading of the Polar Express book. The event is presented by *Houchens Industries Inc.* Current members may purchase discounted memberships and gift them to friends and family.



All RailPark Members get early and exclusive tickets to the Polar Express Storytime. We will also host a giveaway exclusive to social media that will include a family membership, tickets to the Polar Express Storytime at the RailPark and a copy of the book. Anyone can participate in this promotion by following us on social media.

We are excited to continue this Christmas tradition once again this year and offer a memorable family experience. It's a magical evening with cocoa, cookies, a real conductor, the reading of the book, and Santa waiting in our museum to give children their magic Christmas bell. Ticket information, distribution dates and storytime dates will be available this October. The Polar Express is a free event, but all participants must have a ticket to attend the story times. To purchase a RailPark Membership, call or visit the RailPark in person at 401 Kentucky St., Bowling Green, KY 42101 or call 270-745-7317. Memberships are also available on our website at [HistoricRailPark.com](http://HistoricRailPark.com) and **you can use the promo code BELIEVE to receive the 20% discount.**

Click this link to get your membership: <https://app.donorview.com/RoZp>

## RPO: Railroad Post Office



Have you ever walked into a historical building, home or rail car and wonder what it was like way back when? Recently at the

Historic RailPark and Museum, I walked from the Duncan Hines Dining Car into the Railway Post Office car and thought just that. Mail was sorted en route to speed delivery. The RPO #1107 located at the RailPark was built in 1921 and was delivered to Bowling Green in 2006. Visit, take a tour, learn about our RPO and wonder what it would have been like.

By Pamela Jarboe

# 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!

## What's Happening Around the RailPark!



Volunteers from the Briarwood Homemakers Club came and help us out with a large mailing.



Board Member, Mike Davenport served coffee on our Duncan Hines Diner Car during our June Board meeting.



Exterior preservation work was completed on our historic L&N Depot. Repairing mortar in the joints of our limestone building is critical to protecting the building. Rewetting the mortar aids in the curing process.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Gene Wilson

### Nominated—Volunteers in Action Rookie Award

by Jamie Johnson and Miliska Knauff

Gene has made a great contribution to the community through his volunteer efforts at the Historic RailPark & Train Museum. He has given over 122 hours of his time since he began volunteering with us in November 2020. This unselfish contribution of his time has enabled our organization to continue to serve our community.

Our organization faces great obstacles regarding preservation of our building and our railcars. We must protect these rare artifacts to remain open and serve the community. Gene spends much of his time volunteering with projects that directly impact the preservation of these artifacts. One of the first projects Gene committed to was organizing and moving over 250,000 film slides. The content of those slides is a collection of train buildings, depots, and rail cars from around the world. This was a sizable donation and needed to be moved to a protected area and prepared for the next phase of the project. We simply could not have done this without Gene's dedication and can-do attitude. Might I add he had to climb the same 22 steps many times and never complained.

With railcar preservation and restoration being our biggest need, Gene has been there for a variety of tasks. He pitched in to help remove the old carpet from our 1953 Towering Pine Sleeper Car. This was no easy task. The old carpet had to be scraped off the floor. Most of it in tiny pieces. Gene spent several days working on his hands and knees to get this project completed. While he had minimal help from one staff member, he did 95% of the work on this project.

These two projects have consumed most of the Gene's time; however, he has stepped up to volunteer for countless other projects. A volunteer that is willing to help whenever and wherever is needed, is a rarity. Gene is rare and certainly valuable to our organization. And often he'll bring help, his lovely wife Chrys Wilson.

When asked "What got you interested in volunteering at the RailPark?" Gene responded, "Always interested in local history. This RailPark is well organized and has top-grade exhibits. After retirement, I wanted to do something to help that didn't involve working in an office. The RailPark has several areas and events to help with that don't involve a lot of paperwork."

What have you gotten from the experience? "I found out I am not a good waiter! Helping with one of the meals was a disaster as far as I was concerned! I have enjoyed the more hands-on jobs like painting, cleaning, moving things around, organizing collections of slides. The people are very good to work with and have interesting backgrounds and stories."

Any words of advice for anyone interested in volunteering at the RailPark? You don't have to know anything about trains to help! Just a desire to help and a good attitude! You can pick up so much information by helping, besides meeting people. There are so many areas to work with; you don't have to be a specialist to make a contribution. Being a volunteer allows you to be at events you might not have considered participating in. You can discover areas you are good at and areas you need to avoid.



Click this link to volunteer: <https://historicroilpark.com/volunteer/>

# Step Right UP

2022

RAILPARK  
RENDEZVOUS

CIRCUS CIRCUS



*Presented by*



**Thursday, September 15th, 2022**

**Enjoy Dinner & A First Class Show Full of  
Wonder & Awe  
Fire & Singing, Dancing & Spinning**

**Join us for an  
Unforgettable Evening  
supporting the Historic RailPark**

**This Circus is for the 21+ Crowd!**



**Friends of  
L&N Depot  
Newsletter**

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 BG Tours

**Instagram:** @historic\_railpark\_  
@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](mailto:JWarren@historicrailpark.com) for more info.