

# MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



# Streetcar CURRENTS



June 2010

Minneapolis & Excelsior, Minnesota

## Summer is Here!

- Please consider volunteering for an extra shift or two in June at CHSL to help us with our crew shortage there
- Encourage your neighbors and friends to come and enjoy a ride on our streetcars
- Post the "Ride the CHSL and ESL" flyers and posters when you receive yours in a couple of weeks



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**Masthead Photo:** TCRT No. 1300 loads at the Linden Hills station on July 1, 2004. This photo shows the old track layout at our Linden Hills station. This was the day that the NRHS convention attendees visited the Como-Harriet Streetcar Line. In the background, Twin City Lines PCC streamliner No. 322 waits patiently across West 42nd Street. (Wendy Dunham photo)

## In Recognition

Rod Eaton—General Supt.

We have a number of museum members who have been volunteering a long, long time. \* **Bob Dumas, Mike Buck, Bill Graham, Scott Heiderich, Neil Howes,** and **Aaron Isaacs** all joined the museum in the early 1970s. **John Prestholdt** became a member in 1978, followed just a few years later by **Roy Harvey,** and **Karl Jones.** Of course, we were the Minnesota Transportation Museum then. **Russ Olson** was one of the founders of MTM and is still very active today. And **Bill Olsen** was Chairman of the "Save No. 1300" committee which preceded MTM's formation. **Dave Norman** became a member in 1962 and has been active ever since. That's almost 50 years of continuous volunteer service to the Minnesota Streetcar Museum!

Very few of us can lay claim to 40 or more years of volunteering. With not yet 10 years, I'm still a relative newcomer. But all museum volunteers deserve recognition for their time, effort and commitment. So this summer we'll be introducing new MSM uniform nameplates that let everyone know how many years each of us has been around. The year you became a volunteer will be engraved beneath your name. Additionally, the color of the plate changes to indicate volunteer service milestones.

New volunteers will start with our traditional yellow nameplate, which we'll continue to ask them to buy. The price should stay around \$8. After five years of volunteer service, the nameplate changes to red. The museum will spring for this and subsequent nameplates in partial thanks for your faithful service. After ten years you'll receive a white plate. Then, at twenty years, the plate becomes bronze. Thirty years earns you a silver plate, and for the few who volunteer forty years, gold. Your new nameplate will allow riders to recognize your contribution to the Minnesota Streetcar Museum. (See some samples in the box on the bottom of page 4.)

Over the next few weeks we'll be compiling information on the year each of us first volunteered. Since our older records are occasionally sketchy, you can help by sending me an email with that year. This program is retroactive, so if you've been a volunteer more than five years, we'll let you know when your new badge is ready. Wear it proudly—you've earned it. And thanks.

**Dave Norman** is not only our longest serving operator volunteer, he is also now our first Senior Operator. This title recognizes Dave's many years of streetcar operation at Como-Harriet and Excelsior. Dave's interest in streetcars predates MTM--he and his father were passengers on the last scheduled revenue run of the streetcar era in the Twin Cities in 1954. Since then he's operated streetcars in half a dozen or more cities and museums across the United States.

Our volunteer streetcar operators and station agents are our "front line"--museum members who meet the public at our two demonstration streetcar lines. There are others who work behind the scenes--in the carbarns and at home--who are also deserving of our thanks for their many years of volunteer service. They don't wear operator's uniforms or nameplates, but we'll be officially recognizing their service, too. Stay tuned for details. ☺ \* Please excuse me if I've missed someone.

## MINNESOTA STREETCAR MUSEUM



The Minnesota Streetcar Museum is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization with the mission to preserve and communicate to the public the experience of Minnesota's electric street and interurban railway history. To accomplish this mission the Museum operates historic streetcars at two demonstration railways.

**COMO-HARRIET STREETCAR LINE**  
**Excelsior Streetcar Line**

For more information on our Museum, our collection of historic streetcars and our demonstration railways, visit our website:

[www.TrolleyRide.org](http://www.TrolleyRide.org)

The museum's business address and telephone number is:

P.O. Box 14467, University Station  
 Minneapolis, MN 55414-0467  
 952-922-1096

**Streetcar Currents**  
 June 2010

Jim Vaitkunas—Editor  
 Bill Graham—Distribution

**Streetcar Currents** is a periodic newsletter published for the members and friends of the Minnesota Streetcar Museum.

Deadline for submitting items for the next issue of the **Streetcar Currents** is June 20, 2010.

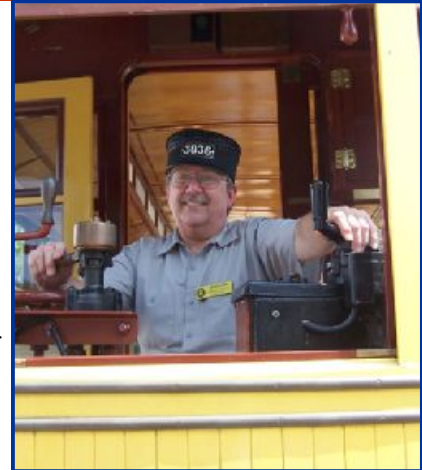
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## Corporate Secretary's Report

Jim Vaitkunas

Our Museum has requirements and must do certain things, the accomplishment of which goes mostly unnoticed by our Museum's members. The two positions that do a lot of this "behind the scenes" work are our Museum's Treasurer, **Scott Heiderich** and Corporate Secretary, **Jim Vaitkunas**. These two volunteers are kept busy doing things on a daily basis (it's a good thing that both are retired, eh?). But if these two individuals don't do what they're supposed to, then the Museum can land in hot water with the state of Minnesota and the Federal Government. And we don't want that, do we? I think we all recognize what our Treasurer, **Scott Heiderich** does. He's our money guy, taking care of receipting and disbursing our funds, managing our funds (and doing a good job of it I might add—just look at the income statement for FY 2009 that you can find on our website!), and he maintains our financial records. But what does the Museum's Corporate Secretary really do? Here's a thumbnail description of my duties.



**Minutes.** The Secretary is responsible for ensuring that accurate minutes of meetings are taken and approved. The Secretary signs a copy of the final, approved minutes and ensures that this copy is maintained in the corporate records.

**Custodian of records.** The Secretary ensures that the records of the organization are maintained as required by law and made available when required by authorized persons. These records may include founding documents, (e.g., articles of incorporation, non-profit status approvals from both the state and federal governments), lists of directors, board and committee meeting minutes, financial reports, and other official records.

**Membership Records.** The Secretary ensures that official records are maintained on members of the organization. He/she ensures that these records are available when required for reports, elections, referenda, other votes, etc. These functions have been delegated to **John DeWitt** as our Membership Services Chief by Board policy.

**Bylaws and Policies.** The Secretary ensures that an up-to-date copy of the bylaws and Board-approved policies are available at all Board and membership meetings.

**Communication.** The Secretary ensures that proper notification is given of directors' and members' meetings as specified in the bylaws. The Secretary manages the general correspondence of the Board of Directors except for such correspondence assigned to others.

**Meetings.** The Secretary participates in Board meetings as a voting member. The Secretary provides items for the agenda as appropriate. In the absence of the Board Chair (and Vice-Chair), the Secretary calls the meeting to order, presiding until a temporary chairperson is elected. The Secretary records meeting minutes as described above. Depending upon the bylaws and practices of the organization, the Secretary may perform these duties for Member meetings (e.g., Annual Member Meeting) and/or for an executive committee meeting.

**Signing Officer.** The Secretary may be designated by the Board of Directors and/or bylaws as one of the signing officers for certain documents. In this capacity, the Secretary may be authorized or required to sign or coun-

(Continued on page 4)

## Excelsior Streetcar Line News

*Bob Wetherall*

The big traction motors that we have been trying to sell for the last 15 years have been sold and shipped to the Edmonton Radial Railway Society in Canada. A big thank you to: **Ken Albrecht**, **Jim Willmore** and **Steve Mages** who crated the motors; **Bob Johnson** and **Ken Albrecht** for coordinating the loading onto the flat bed truck; and, to **Phil Epstein** who drove and operated the boom truck we rented from MTM. We are happy gaining the added room in the cold barn and our treasury is happy with \$6,000.00 in our savings account.

Thank you also to the following for getting ESL ready for 2010 operations: **Teresa Babler** and **Todd Bender**, who cleaned the cars complete with window washing inside and out; **Bill Graham**, who swapped several worn rattan seats for newer replacements; and **John Prestholdt**, **Jim Willmore** and **Andy Stephens** for replacing a broken spring in the rear brake valve on TCRT gate car No. 1239 and performing the pre-season maintenance checks on both No. 1239 and Duluth Street Railway No. 78.

The ESL car barn (finished in 1998) now sports a fresh new look. We hired a carpenter to do the following: reattach loose siding panels; caulk these panels with liquid nails; caulk the remaining fiberglass siding (58 tubes of caulk were used); cut back the overgrowth of trees alongside highway 7 that was causing roof damage; and, replaced 6 square feet of tar paper and shingles on the cold barn roof. The outside of the building has been power washed. A painter now is giving the wood trim 2 coats of fresh paint.

**Ken Albrecht** reports over 200 rivets have been placed in the steel frame of Winona No. 10. The side sills have been fitted to the frame and are now being installed prior to attaching the steel underbody. More welding will attach the steel frame to the main car body.

Remember ESL has gone green! This means we single sort recycle—paper, plastic and glass bottles, and aluminum cans can all be placed in the containers in the barn for recycling. Your help is greatly appreciated. ♻️

## MSM Training Report

*Clyde Hawkins—Chief of Training*

Another year and Foreman/Operator recertification training is almost complete. To date 35 Foreman and 48 Operators have recertified. This year's recertification included an operations review for each Foreman and Operator in addition to a short check-ride on the streetcar. Recertification started on April 10th and the last scheduled session was on May 8th. The Training Department now is busy training new operators.

We initially had 24 people show interest in becoming an operator. Four of those have since dropped out because of their busy schedules. We will be doing a lot of the training at CHSL in particular, so will be running two-car operations several nights a week to accommodate regular operations and the special training practice runs. If you have a chance to visit with any of the new operator trainees, give them a warm welcome and encouragement. In order to speed up the training process we have ask a number of foreman to assist with training.

The Training Department appreciates their help with this year's training program.

MSM's volunteers take our rules and recertification training seriously. In the photo on the left, note the pleased look of our crew consisting of (from left to right) **Floyd Child**, Shift Foreman **Dave Higgins** and **Bob Bayers**. Our new rules require that at CHSL, the West 42nd Street crossing guards must now wear the reflective vests even during daylight hours. We've had too many close calls over the last few years that this step was needed. So, here are our volunteers, looking very nattily dressed, complying with our new rule. ♻️



**Your 100% vest-compliant Sunday second shift crew**

### Blair Dollery

Sadly, I must report the passing of another of our faithful volunteers. Blair Dollery suffered a severe stroke on May 15th and after only a few days in the hospital, he passed away on May 21st. A full description of Blair's involvement with MTM and MSM will be in the next issue of the *Streetcar Currents*. Rest in peace, Blair. You will be missed by everyone.

**What's Happening?**

- May 30 Second annual vintage automobile rally at CHSL starts at 12:30 PM
- May 31 Memorial Day—CHSL special early-bird service starts at 9:00 AM
- June 2 Wednesday afternoon service at CHSL starts (1 PM to 4 PM)
- June 5 Streetcar cleaning at CHSL, Isaacs carbarn—8:30 to 11 AM. Juice & rolls are served
- June 12 Streetcar Adventure for Kids special event at CHSL—starts at 10 AM
- June 15 Story Time Trolley at ESL—starts at 6:30 PM
- June 17 Pajama Party trolley at CHSL—first run at 6:30 PM

*(Corporate Secretary's report Continued from page 2)*

tersign checks, correspondence, applications, reports, contracts or other documents on behalf of organization.

**Filing of Documents.** The Secretary may be the registered agent with respect to the laws of the jurisdiction, the person upon whom legal notice to the corporation is served, and responsible for ensuring that documents necessary to maintain the corporation are filed.

Here is some more information concerning the important documents and policies of our Museum. To access all these Museum documents, go to our website [www.TrolleyRide.org](http://www.TrolleyRide.org) and click on the top left button ("All About our Museum") and then on the "organizational documents" link. All the documents are then accessible to you to read, or you can download them to your computer's hard drive or some other storage device for future reference. Accessing the documents in this manner saves your Museum printing and mailing expense.

**Policy No. 8, Membership, Personnel and Administration.** This is the latest policy to be approved by your Board of Directors. Purposes of this policy are:

- Establish basic membership levels, dues structure, application and renewal procedures, and other administrative requirements for the Museum.
- Establish basic Museum personnel policies.
- Prescribe policies and procedures by which the Museum's records keeping and administrative business activities will be conducted.
- Prescribe policy on the design and use of the Museum's two logos and associated logotypes.

As a member and volunteer, the contents of this policy applies directly to you. So we request that you take a few moments to read this policy soon.

**MSM Documents on our Museum's Website.** Your Museum's policy is that the Board and the Museum's officers will conduct the Museum's business with full disclosure and full transparency. To meet this goal we have put on our website important governing and policy documents and other useful information such as: the full Museum membership roster and crew telephone lists in a password protected area; the IRS non-profit status application (IRS Form 1023) and the IRS' approval letter; IRS form 990 (annual tax returns) going back to 2005 when MSM was formally incorporated and recognized as a non-profit organization by the IRS; our Museum's by-laws and organizational diagram; some blank forms; materials from our last two annual members' meetings; finance reports; and, the minutes of every Board meeting held since early 2005.

We ask that you check our website frequently as new documents are periodically added and as existing documents are constantly being updated (which is especially true for the crew rosters). If you don't have access to the internet, please let us know what you want and we will send the items to you. And if you have any questions regarding any of the contents of our website, please contact me or our Board Chair, [Dave French](#).

**MSM to Recognize Years of Volunteer Service**

As announced in my column on page 1, starting very soon our Museum will recognize years of volunteer service with a special uniform name badge. Samples of what the special badges will look like are seen on the left. When we finalize and verify the information on each active volunteer, a future issue of the Streetcar Currents will have the list of the volunteers who will receive these special name badges with the number of years of service they have. This is the least we can do to recognize those who have volunteered with our Museum over the years. Without these faithful long-timers, our Museum would not be in the good shape it is today.

**Rod Eaton**, General Superintendent

