I would like to thank the operators who have already operated, or plan to operate, this year. There are only 504 shifts left to be filled this operating season.

Please remember that there is more to making our Museum successful than operating our streetcars, and I ask that each or you volunteer for one or more non-operating activities. Most of these activities cannot be done by just one or two people. Periodically I distribute a note on behalf of one of these activities’ leaders asking for your time and effort. Please, please, please make an effort to help make the Museum run effectively. If you are interested in some of the non-operating volunteer efforts (some of which are listed below) please contact Pat Cosgrove (Volunteer Coordinator) or me.

- Streetcar maintenance — Dick Zawacki
- Overhead maintenance — Chris Heck
- Streetcar cleaning at ESL — Tom Dulebohn
- Streetcar cleaning at CHSL — Jerry Peterson
- Special event planning and construction — me
- Gardening — Ben & Mary Porter
- Brush cutting — Steve McCulloch

Many thanks to Steve McCulloch, Bruce Allen, Barb Gacek, Linda Ridlehuber, Gary Sparr, Mike Malinoff, Ben Porter, and Mary Porter for their ongoing work in brush cutting and general maintenance of Como-Harriet’s right-of-way. Ben and Mary Porter along with several of their friends and colleagues have done an outstanding job in working their green thumbs in expanding the depot garden. I would also like to recognize Gordy Moore who has volunteered to take over as coordinator for the monthly Owl Service events this summer.

As many of you know, after many years Rod Eaton is stepping back from some of his creative leadership of the Museum’s special events. As a result I am looking for an individual or individuals who are willing to lead and organize a variety of our special events, primarily around Halloween and Thanksgiving/Christmas. Rod has developed instructions and is willing to help coach new leaders.

Car cleaning, which occurs the first Saturday of the month, is led by Jerry Peterson at CHSL and Tom Dulebohn at ESL. Our Museum has a well-deserved reputation for keeping our streetcars clean. In May, Jerry unfortunately was the only volunteer who attended the cleaning event! The car cleaning crews at ESL and CHSL require about 4 to 6 people for about two hours. The result of the work is well worth your time. I also want to emphasize that not just Operators can clean our cars. Family and friends are very welcome to help us maintain our cars in a good state of cleanliness. It’s just good PR.

Memorial Day’s weather was not kind to the Museum. The rain, which did not want to quit, created a situation where only 16 guests braved the elements to ride the PCC to and from Lakewood Cemetery. Andy Jacob, Russ Isbrandt, and Phil Epstein operated until 12:30 as they had dropped a few riders at Lakewood and wanted to make sure we offered return service. According to Andy two rides that stood out was a couple who were visiting from Tennessee and wanted to make sure they visited the Museum as they were told it was one of the best tourist attractions in the area. The other was a couple from Minnetonka who wanted to go on a trolley ride at Excelsior but when they saw they were closed, they drove all the way out here to go for a ride. So, although ridership was low, we made those who did ride very happy. This was good customer service.

Thank you all. Be safe and have fun!!!
CHSL grounds get TLC. The grounds around the Como-Harriet Line have received a lot of attention lately. Buildings and Grounds Foreman Steve McCulloch negotiated a very favorable deal with contractor Iron Horse Landscaping to do these jobs.

1. Rebuild the deteriorated steps and retaining walls leading to the Linden Hills station basement. This should also solve a drainage problem.
2. Remove the deteriorated railroad tie planters next to the Lakewood Cemetery stop. They date from 1977 and had not been maintained.
3. Regrade and fill in the swale between the Lakewood platform and the cemetery fence.

Ben and Mary Porter have finished planting the entire Linden Hills depot garden. You may recall that last year we hired a contractor to remove the ballast rock and fabric that had impeded further planting.

Routine maintenance has included repainting the yellow safety zone line on the Linden Hills station platform and walking the right of way to pick up litter.

The Building and Grounds crew also included Bruce Allyn, Barb Gacek, Mike Malinoff, Linda Ridlehuber and Gary Sparb.

A new informational sign holder has been installed at the Lakewood stop, thanks to John Dillery and Keith Anderson. Keith also installed better steps leading to the platform.

The Isaacs car barn crew, assisted by the library crew and Steve McCulloch, did a spring cleanout of the car barn, especially the area between the shop and the garage. We disposed of a lot of junk, including scrap metal.

CRT No. 1239 truck repair fund update. Confronted by the need to raise money to cover the unexpected cost of two motor failures, our members stepped up big time. They donated $13,651, which more than matched the $10,000 challenge grant from the 20th Century Electric Railway Foundation. In addition, we were able to secure a $1000 grant from the Tom E. Dailey Foundation, which supports railway preservation. To date we’ve raised a total of $24,651.

Many thanks to those who donated, including:

Bruce Allyn  Richard Darling  John Hallberg Jones  Ben Porter
Keith Anderson  Rod & Pat Eaton  Michael P. Joynt  Robert Powell
Roger Anderson  Phil Epstein  Stanley Kasal  Linda Ridlehuber
Chic Anding  Dennis Fischer  John Knox  Barbara Risken
Bill and Rose Arends  Roger Forman  Rick Krenske  Peter Schierloh
Douglas Beedon  H. Dutton Foster  Darel Leipold  Andrew Selden
Ray Bensen Jr.  Steve Glischinski  David McCollum  Steve Simon
Glen Bottoms  Scott & Kathy Heiderich*  Mtka Power Squadron  Dennis & Ruth Stephens
Mike Brenner  Dave Hogan  Steve Mitchell  James Strain
Peter Cahill  Russ Isbrandt  John & Joanne Nordale  Tom Traxler
Steven Collin  Clark Johnson  Jerry & Muriel Olsen  Jincy & Jim Vaitkunas
Mary Ann Corbey  Robert R. Johnson  Kyle & Ayssa Olson  Dave VenHuizen

* In memory of Charlie McCarthy, Bob Dumas and Ken Snyder

ESL recreates streetcar/steamboat transfer. ESL is partnering with the Excelsior/Lake Minnetonka Historical Society and the Museum of Lake Minnetonka to recreate the historic street to boat transfer of passengers. In this case necessity was the mother of invention. The Historical Society has chartered the steamboat Minnебaba (TCRT 31st Street Shops, 1906) for three history talks while sailing. The boat leaves from its home dock behind

(Continued on bottom of next page)
The Linden Hills station garden’s appearance has been dramatically improved as a result of Ben and Mary Porter and their local crew. Here we see (Left to right) Elaine Phillips, Ben Porter, Linda Ridlehuber & Mary Porter. The garden contains over 180 plants and at least thirty varieties of Minnesota native flowers and Cultivars that require less supplemental irrigation. (Ben Porter photo)

As reported by Aaron Isaacs on page two, we had a contractor come and re-do the step well and steps to the Linden Hills station’s basement entrance. They did a great job in improving both the appearance and access to the basement, and gave us a very favorable price for the work. (Aaron Isaacs Photo)

The north platform at CHSL sure looks a lot better now that the old planter is gone. Steve McCulloch is in charge of grounds work and he coordinated the work on the north platform and the work at the Linden Hills station basement doorway. (Jim Vaitkunas photo)

Over at ESL, we have arrived in the 21st Century, at least as far as our business practices are concerned. We now have full wi-fi in the car barn and ticket booth and now we accept credit card sales for fares and merchandise. It seems that nowadays no one carries cash but pays for everything with credit cards. Here we see Craig Levang displaying the POS tablet that we use in the ESL ticket booth at the Water Street platform. (Todd Bender photo)

Cashiers Needed for CHSL

We are down to three cashiers at CHSL but having four or five is ideal so no one needs to do it more than once a month. Each person is assigned various weeks during the season. A week runs from Saturday through Friday. There are 8 cash bags, one for each day of the week plus one for Wednesday afternoon. A cashier needs to make sure each bag has the correct seed money denominations of currency in the bag and have it available before it’s needed for that shift. The amount in the bag after the seed money has been removed is deposited at a TCF Bank and a report made that goes to Tim Crain our museum’s bookkeeper. If you are interested and available, please contact CHSL’s Head Cashier Bill Arends: motormanbill@gmail.com or 612-922-2208.

(Continued from page 2)

Maynard’s Restaurant, where there is limited parking. However, the dock is just a short walk from the Old Excelsior Boulevard end of the ESL tracks. Attendees will park behind the public library at Water Street and the streetcar ride is part of the event. They’ll return by streetcar following the boat ride. The first event is the evening of June 10. For details, go to https://www.elmhs.org/cruises.html.
Amazon Smile. Some of you (most of us?) have an Amazon account. Do you know that every time you shop on Amazon a donation can be made to the Minnesota Streetcar Museum if you shop through AmazonSmile?

Each quarter the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable and non-profit organizations. The Minnesota Streetcar Museum is one of the non-profits signed up with AmazonSmile. Last year we received over $80 in donations, even though there are just a few members using AmazonSmile and directing the donations to MSM.

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select an organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select the organization of their choice. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile their Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price to the organization selected by the customer. The same products, same prices and same service are available when signing in with AmazonSmile that are available when signing into your Amazon account, including Prime membership.

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.

CONO-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
The museum’s business address and telephone number are:
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Minneapolis, MN 55416-0509
952-922-1096

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Jim Vaitkunas—Editor
Bill Graham—Distribution

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Please send items to the editor Jim Vaitkunas at the following address:
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MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS
We strongly ask that when you receive your membership renewal notice in the mail that you take a few moments to write your check, put it in the addressed envelope we give you and mail it to the Museum. Or you can renew on-line at our website. We recently had a volunteer give their renewal to the Linden Hills station agent. The renewal was then unknowingly recorded as a new membership on the POS machine. This resulted in an accounting mess-up and more work for the Cashier, our Membership Services staff and our accountant Tim Crain. So please—no membership renewals delivered to the CHSL depot or ESL ticket booth and no renewals put into the Cashier’s bag.

We can’t emphasize this enough.