



Welcome to the first edition of Info Exchange...the e edition. My name is Borden Black and I will be editing this publication. Please bear with me as I learn the membership and what is important to you. I am always eager for your input. This newsletter will be published electronically monthly and will contain RPCA and railroad news. Joe Rosenthal will continue as editor of the newsletter which will now be a slick, full- color magazine format containing interesting articles. It will be mailed twice annually. Joe is seeking a name for the new publication so please email your suggestions to us. We both need your articles, news and general input. You can send it to: Media@RPCA.com



**From the President
Roger Fuehring**

Welcome to our new look for the Information Exchange and big thanks to Borden Black for her commitment to this project. We all are excited to see Joe's new creation with the new all color magazine. Stay tuned for some exciting changes as we move forward.

RPCA has just concluded a very successful conference in Springdale, AR. First, I would like to thank our host and sponsor Arkansas and Missouri Railroad, particularly Brenda Rouse. The rail excursions, hotel hospitality, speakers and shop facilities were first class. Also a big thanks to our presenting partners United Shortline Insurance Services and McRail and all our convention champions. Thank you to all of those who supported us this year including our faithful vendors. For those that gave up their time to help with seminars, set up, auctions and the many other behind the scene operations, Thank You. In the end, the frustration and victory of such a big project falls to our Conference Coordinator Charles Barthold and his commitment to excellence.

We had over 170 attending in one way or another in this year's conference. The auction and other donations raised \$3,800 for the Fuehring Fund. This year's winners Michael Long and Drayton Blackgrove were both in attendance as well as several other under thirty attendees. In addition, \$1,622 was raised for youth camp. Nominations are needed for both scholarship and youth camp. We appreciate all those who donated and bid during the auction.

We look forward to seeing all of you in Cincinnati next year.

Election Board of Directors and Officers



175 ballots were cast in what Burt Hermev called one of the tightest elections ever. Only 2 votes separated the 3rd and 4th place candidates. Judy Gray was re-elected and Jon Clark and Ray Kammer will join the board. They are replacing Bill Jubeck and Ed Ellis. The 2017 officers were re-elected for another term: Roger Fuehring, President; Burt Hermev, Vice President; Gerry Lemmons, corporate Secretary and Eileen Weber, treasurer.

[contacts for board and officers](#)

Treasurer's report Eileen Weber

As treasurer, I wish to thank the people who worked very hard on the silent auction to benefit the Fuehring Fund for Future Leaders. The Silent Auction to fund the Fuehring Scholarships collected \$2601.00. We sold 87 separate lots this year. Many of you generously donated more than your bid, and also just gave money to support the cause without bidding or winning anything.

Our collection at the banquet this year to help fund the Caldwell-Luebke Railcamp Scholarship and the Stanlee Weller Scholarship for Young Women collected \$1642 Our insurance brokers, McRail, HMBD, and United Shortline have agreed to make up the difference to fully fund the scholarships for 2018. We thank them for their generosity. We also received a special generous donation from Bruce and Mary Knight of MidAmerica Locomotive and Car Repair.

Thank you to all the silent auction workers, including Frank Dziama, Renee Luebke, Pamm Monaghan, Judy & William Gray, Sam Luebke who helped with the close, and the many people who helped with the setup.

[auction details](#)

Board Meeting Actions

Gerry Lemmons

RPCA Board of Directors

January 11th 2018 1pm – 5pm

Springdale, AR

Synopsis of Actions

Minutes of the RPCA Board Meeting

Eileen Weber

Acting Secretary.

Sunday, January 14, 2018, aboard the A&M train.

[minutes](#)

**NRHS RailCamp
Roy Wullich**

We would again like to thank our insurance vendors, McRail, HMBD, United Shortline for their continued support and generous contributions in matching funds to provide two full scholarships for the NRHS Summer RailCamps. We would also like to thank those who mailed in donations and/or included them with their registration.

As always, we still need male and female applicant's for the NRHS RailCamp. Each year we provide a minimum of two scholarships for a male and female student under the two Memorial Funds established for this purpose. The Caldwell-Luebke Fund and Stanlee E. Weller Fund provide attendees with full tuition, room and board to the week long rail camp on either the east or west coast. (Transportation is up to the attendee).

For Scholarship consideration, please submit your RailCamp application by March 1, 2018 to Roy Wullich, RPCA RailCamp, PO Box 719, Quinton, VA 23141. Please do not mail them to the NRHS.

For more information: <http://www.nrhs.com/program/railcamp> The application is at: http://nrhs.com/sites/default/files/2018_NRHS_RAILCAMP_application3.pdf

Safety Presentation in Springdale

Gary Carter

Ray Kammer, Al Weber and Gary Carter presented the 2 hour RPCA Safety Program in Springdale. This is the third year the program has been offered to the attendees of the annual conference. This year 23 members listened, watched and participated in the presentation. 21 of those attendees chose to take the exam. All 21 passed and certificates of attendance were distributed to those members. This class will be offered again next year at the Cincinnati conference.

This is an ongoing, evolving project of the Safety Committee of RPCA. The entire Safety Program is being offered for sale to RPCA members and member organizations. For more information, please contact Gary Carter at 719-406-6161.

Amtrak/FRA Update

Chris Jagodzinski of Amtrak and Steve Zuiderveen, of the FRA both provided the latest information from their agencies. There have been massive changes at Amtrak both in management organization and as a result of a reduction of employees. For those who submit movement requests the most notable is that Billie Ernest retired effective January 19 and Frank Foldetta is no longer with Amtrak. Missy Dukeman and Necho Terry will still be handling private car movements. A complete update on personnel and division changes as well as ridership and OTP will be distributed in the near future.

Of interest to private car owners, is the addition of a daylight run to Boston beginning March 12 Monday through Friday 172 & 173, Saturday 162 & 163 and Sunday 162 and 149. Please consider trips on these trains. A consist guide has been put on line and there have been Amtrak website enhancements . In addition, Amtrak is developing safety rules for PVs.

Of particular importance for PV mechanical operations, Amtrak must have all weight data for PTC and it should correspond to the data in UMLER. This year inspectors will be looking more closely at electrical lockers. They should be totally free of all other equipment, paper and fluids.

The latest rule making from the FRA can be found at www.regulations.gov and enter the docket number. On the Federal register index page use the search term rail.

[FRA presentation](#)

UMLER

Pamm Monaghan

Only a couple of days after the RPCA Annual Conference, there was an Umler Data Quality Task Force conference call. Adding back into Umler the Load Limit and Gross Rail Load was one of the topics. With few questions, the ranges of acceptable entries was accepted and the change recommended to go before the full Umler Committee for approval. Early in February there will be another conference call to discuss implementation. By implementation, we mean when do the data fields show up

on-line for input, and when do those fields become mandatory. However, the whole Umler topic is cumbersome and complicated, and awkward.

For all passenger car owners, this means you need to provide your Umler service provider, or get input somehow, your car(s) data. If you sent it to Amtrak, it does not get to RPCNB, GLR nor other Umler services providers. You need to send the data to YOUR service provider or input it yourself. The Umler record MUST match the Amtrak record, meaning Tare, Load Limit and Gross Rail Load numbers must be identical in the two systems.

PHOTOS FROM THE 2018 CONVENTION SPRINGDALE AR







Railroad Passenger Car Alliance | P.O. Box 18322, Baltimore, MD 21240

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