



Iowa Rails

Iowa Association of Railroad passengers

March 2012



March 24, 2012 meeting will be in Iowa City

We will meet for lunch at 11:30 am Sheraton Hotel Restaurant named Share, 210 S. Dubuque St, Iowa City, Iowa. (319) 337-4058.

We will have a soup, salad and sandwich table. The cost will be \$12.00 per person. This includes tax, tip and beverage. In order to give the restaurant a count, please call or email Mary. (563) 323-3390 or iarp.news@gmail.com or marybuczek@iailti.com.

Directions to the Sheraton - Take Exit 244, Dubuque Street. Turn left on Gilbert Street, turn right onto Gilbert Street, turn right on Burlington Street, turn right onto Dubuque Street and park in the ramp.

Speakers

Geoff Fruin - Assistant to the City Manager of Iowa City. Previously, he was assistant city manager of Normal, Illinois. City Manager, Tom Markus, City Manager of Iowa City told the Cedar Rapids Gazette that "I think he has great experience in a university town with similar challenges that we will be dealing with. That includes Amtrak service.

Barton Jennings Chair - 2012 NRHS Convention. The 2012 NRHS Convention will be held June 18- June 24 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) supports train, railway and station preservation projects.



IOWA CITY-CHICAGO PASSENGER RAIL



Chicago to Omaha Passenger Rail System Study Open House

AMES, Iowa – Feb. 13, 2012 – The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is reminding the public about the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail System Planning Study’s online, self-directed, open house at www.iowadot.gov/chicagotoomaha/. Announced in late January, the study’s sponsors are still seeking visitors and public comments.

The Federal Railroad Administration, in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), will analyze improvements to the regional intercity passenger rail service from Union Station in Chicago, through Iowa, to a terminal in Omaha.

“The purpose of this online, open house is to introduce the public to the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail System Planning Study and gather input on route alternatives,” said Tamara Nicholson, Iowa DOT director of Rail Transportation. “This is the first time the public will have an opportunity to participate in the study.”

Comments can be submitted at the online open house. Meeting materials and a comment form can also be downloaded at www.iowadot.gov/chicagotoomaha/ and mailed to: Tamara Nicholson, director, Office of Rail Transportation, Iowa Department of Transportation, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010. For those without Internet access, meeting materials and a comment form may be requested by calling 800-488-7119.

For more information, please visit the study’s website or call the toll-free comment line at 800-488-7119.

Federal and state laws prohibit employment and/or public accommodation discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran’s status. If you believe you have been discriminated against, please contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 800-457-4416 or Iowa Department of Transportation’s affirmative action officer. If you need accommodations because of a disability to access the Iowa Department of Transportation’s services, contact the agency’s affirmative action officer at 800-262-0003.

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Contact: Amanda Martin, Iowa DOT’s Office of Rail Transportation, at 515-239-1653 or amanda.martin@dot.iowa.gov

Chicago - Dubuque Passenger Train

The Dubuque Ride the Rail will be meeting with Legislators and the Governor in Des Moines on March 14. At this meeting, they will be requesting support for passenger train service into Iowa.

They will be taking letters of support with them. The group would like to show that support for the passenger train extends beyond the Dubuque Tri-State area.

Letters of support may be mailed to Penny Roeder.

National Train Day

Saturday, May 12, 2012 is National Train Day. On this day, we have the opportunity to promote existing AMTRAK service in Iowa and promote the Chicago-Dubuque and the Chicago-Quad Cities-Iowa City-Des Moines-Omaha proposed routes.



Iowa Representative on the NARP Council

After many years, Dick Welch has decided to retire as the Iowa Representative on the NARP Council. Information on this position is listed on the previous page.

The NARP Council meets two times a year. One meeting is in the Washington, D.C. area. The other meeting is at different locations throughout the country. Last year, it was in Los Angeles.

The Spring Council of NARP representatives will be held Monday-Wednesday (April 23-25, 2012) at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town Hotel, 1767 King Street, Alexandria, VA.

NARP's Day on the Hill will be Tuesday, April 24. On this day, you will be able to meet with the Iowa Senators and Representatives or their staff.

Please contact Dick Welch or NARP if you are interested in applying to be the Iowa NARP Representative on this important council. You may also contact NARP at www.narprail.org/

Position Description



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
RAILROAD PASSENGERS**
TRAINS: A TRAVEL CHOICE AMERICANS WANT

State Representative

Purpose

A State Representative provides the essential link that unites local and national efforts into effective advocacy for passenger trains and transit. A Representative represents local needs, issues and activities at the national level; helps formulate national policies through participation in Associations committees; and implements these policies by working at the grass roots level. A Representative plays a key role in helping the Association accomplish its mission.

Qualifications

The ideal candidate is a results-oriented self-starter with a strong dedication to accomplishing the mission of the Association. He or she should have the time and financial resources needed to participate in Association activities. Leadership, communication, networking skills and interest in the political process are highly desirable. Familiarity with rail and transit issues is also a plus. A Representative must be a member in good standing of the Association and a registered voter of the state they represent.

Responsibilities

1. Elects the Representatives at Large, Officers and Directors of the Association
 2. Reviews Association policies and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors
 3. Participates on at least one Association committee
 4. Communicates with NARP members in Representative's area; understands their issues
 5. Learns about legislators at both the state and federal levels in his or her State; knows their issues and voting records; becomes familiar with their staffs; where needed, organizes targeted programs to educate them about our issues
 6. Becomes more effective by networking with
 - a. Other Representatives
 - b. Local and state officials
 - c. Business, community and educational organizations and leaders
 - d. Other advocacy organizations
 - e. The media
 7. Identifies and recruits talented people to participate in Association activities, committees and leadership positions including Elected State Representative
 8. Provides regular reports of activities and accomplishments to his or her Representative Coordinator
 9. Maintains proper decorum at all times when representing the Association in public
 10. Avoids conflicts of interest
 11. Provides financial support to the Association by
 - a. Being a fully paid member in good standing of the Association and, if able, moving to a higher level of support
 - b. Assuming the personal expenses and time incurred in attending Council of Representatives and local membership meetings
 - c. Recruiting new members
 - d. Assisting in the fund raising and endowment enrichment activities to ensure that the Association's resources are adequate far into the future
 - e. If able, making contributions directly to the Association to help fund mission critical activities
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IARP CONTACTS

President

Gordon Canfield
2005 Spring Street
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-6345
canfigor@gmail.com

Vice President

Penny Roeder
900 University Avenue
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-6151
563-588-9655
pennyroeder@msn.com

Secretary

Joseph Buczek
1422 West 9 Street
Davenport, Iowa 52804
563-323-3390

Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Mary Buczek
1422 West 9 Street
Davenport, Iowa 52804-4018
563-323-3390
gardenrr1@gmail.com
marybuczek@iailti.com

Directors

Richarad F “Dick” Welch
310 Aaron Court S.W.
Swisher, IA 52338-9430
319-857-5559
(term expiring 2012)

Roland M. Lynch
216 Bluff Street
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-6559
712-3233-0522
(term expiring 2013)

Judy Risvold
1114 59th Street
Des Moines, IA 50311-2108
515-277-4717
(term expiring 2014)

Legal Counsel
George F. Davison, Jr.
2746 Lynner Drive
Des Moines, IA 50310-5835
515-250-1553

Marketing Director
Tim Kenyon
253 Highland Drive NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405-4849
trkenyon@mchsi.com

website:
WWW.iowarailpassengers.org



Upcoming Events

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| March 14, 2012 | Dubuque meets with Legislators and the Governor (Discusses passenger rail for Iowa) |
| March 24, 2012 | IARP meeting in Iowa City |
| March 31, 2012 | Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers meeting, Hilton, Milwaukee |
| April 19, 2012 | PRAC (Passenger Rail Advisory Committee) meeting in Des Moines (additional information to follow) |
| April 23-25, 2012 | NARP Council of Representatives Meeting, Alexandria, VA |
| May 12, 2012 | National Train Day |
| July 21, 2012 | IARP Meeting, Amana |
| November 17, 2012 | IARP Meeting, Des Moines |



Iowa Association of Railroad Passengers
1422 West 9 Street
Davenport, Iowa 52804-4018

IARP MEETING

March 24, 2012 - Iowa City, Iowa

IARP GOALS

Continued support of the *California Zephyr*
Work with the *California Zephyr* support group
Continued support of the *Southwest Chief*
Work to establish service between Dubuque and Chicago
**Work to establish service between Iowa City, Quad Cities
and Chicago.**

Supporting all these routes give Iowans more transportation choices