

IOWA RAILS

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

====July 2011====



IARP
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OF RAIL PASSENGERS

IARP to meet in Davenport

Our next meeting is Saturday, July 23, 2011, in Davenport.

We will meet for lunch at 11:30 am at the Chop Chop Restaurant, Quad City Plaza Radisson, 111 East 2nd Street, Davenport, Iowa (563) 322-2200. We will be able to order off a limited-item menu.

In order to give the restaurant a count, call Mary toll free (866) 480-8100 Ext 46 or email her if you plan on joining us for lunch.

Our meeting will begin at 1:00 pm in the restaurant.

Several speakers have been invited.

The Iowa Budget will be discussed during this meeting.

Members will be able to attend Train Festival 2011 before and after the meeting.



Amtrak will have a train on display in Rock Island during the 2011 Train Festival.

The train arrives Thursday (July 21) from Chicago and returns on Monday (July 25).

Amtrak will have their 40th Anniversary special exhibit train on display at the Galesburg, Illinois Amtrak Station September 24-25.

Iowa Association of Railroad Passengers



Gordon R. Canfield, President

July, 2011

Dear Members:

Thank you for according me the honor of being your leader. Together with your support and guidance, we can make IARP an even greater influence for expansion of passenger rail service in Iowa.

I look forward to greeting you at our July 23, 2011 meeting at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Davenport. The meeting promises to be a good one, with informative speakers on topics of interest to us all. This meeting is scheduled to coincide with Train Festival 2011, taking place in Rock Island. IARP is one of its sponsors. We hope you can take advantage of the exciting sights and sounds offered by this spectacular rail gathering.

Like other organizations wishing to be effective communicators, IARP is faced with the challenge brought about by the changing ways people receive information. Those of us who have been around for a while seek information mostly through traditional media. Younger Iowans (who, by the way, may never have climbed aboard a passenger train car) seek information in modern ways such as laptops, cell phones, smart phones, I-pads, and various forms of social media. When possible, they also seek information by first hand experience (this is why Train Festival 2011 draws crowds). Whether we wish to reach out to more people to become members of IARP, or to sell the need for passenger rail to political decision makers, we need to harvest more of the power that these new communication tools provide. At the same time we need to continue traditional methods of reaching people.

Membership growth is important to IARP. Any Iowan who has a desire for travel by passenger train is a prospective member for our organization. We have to seek ways of reaching out to more people. With a large and ever expanding membership our credibility with the legislature and governor expands exponentially. With a greater membership we will have more funds to do the work, yet keep our dues at a reasonable level. By the way, IARP has the IRS 501-C3 designation, which means dues and voluntary contributions become tax deductible to the giver.

IARP is closer now to seeing its mission fulfilled than ever before. It is my belief that expanded passenger train service will happen soon. Legislators cannot keep a closed eye to it much longer. Passenger rail brings good paying jobs, a much needed service and an economical and environmentally friendlier form of transportation than what is currently available. All this means that even though our goal is in sight, we need to need to keep going until the job is done, so this is not a time to rest. When the train from Chicago stops regularly in Dubuque and when the train crosses the bridge from Rock Island and makes stops on its way to Iowa's western border we can take a breather--but not until then.

Keep up the good work, everyone!

Gordon R. Canfield

Iowa Legislation

Passenger rail funding appears to have survived budget negotiations.

The negotiations keep the \$6.5 million that has been set aside to fund the Iowa City-Quad Cities-Chicago passenger rail service. However, the final state budget was still undecided at the time of the vote.

The total cost of the project is an estimated \$310 million. Federal Fund will cover 80% of this cost. Iowa's portion is \$20 million. Illinois portion is \$45 million.

The battle for funding is far from over. We need to keep contacting our legislators and Governor Brandstad.



Students from Drake University hold up petitions sent to Governor Branstad. These petitions expressed the student's support for the Iowa City to Chicago proposed passenger train.

Federal Legislation

We also need to contact our Federal legislators. Without Amtrak, we will not be able run the Iowa City to Chicago passenger train, Dubuque to Chicago Train, California Zephyr, Southwest Chief and all the other trains that run in our country.

The following is from the Iowa Department of Transportation website:

Passenger rail can benefit Iowans

Iowans reap benefits in multiple ways when passenger rail is expanded.



Sustainable transportation alternatives result:

- Energy efficiency that promotes energy independence.
- Fewer greenhouse gas emissions for healthier Iowans and a better environment.



Economic vitality and development mean:

- Business environment that will create and attract new and retain existing jobs.
- More travel options for both business and leisure.
- Enhanced business and university recruitment.
- More opportunities for tourism and recreation.



Quality of life is enhanced with:

- Increased mobility for Iowans.
- Access to travel for those who do not or cannot drive.
- A comfortable, convenient travel option.



Efficiencies are achieved through:

- Speedy and straightforward boarding.
- Productive travel time with use of laptops and cell phones en route.

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