



Iowa Rails

Iowa Association of railroad passengers

November 2011

November 19, 2011 meeting will be in Ottumwa, Iowa



We will meet for lunch at 11:30 am in the FOX and SAC room of the Hotel Ottumwa, 107 East 2nd Street, Ottumwa, Iowa. (641) 682-8051.

We have the choice of the buffet at the 2nd Street Cafe (located in Hotel Ottumwa) or ordering off the menu. The cost of the buffet is \$6.99 plus the cost of beverage, tax and gratuity.

In order to give the restaurant a count, please call or email Mary. (563) 323-3390 or (866) 480-8100 Ext 46 or gardenrr1@gmail.com or marybuczek@iailti.com.

The meeting will follow at 1:00 in the same room. Several speakers have been invited for the meeting.

The Hotel Ottumwa is located a short walking distance of the Ottumwa AMTRAK station.

The East bound *California Zephyr* is scheduled to arrive at 9:09 am. The West bound *California Zephyr* is scheduled to arrive at 6:53 pm.

The original depot was built in 1889 by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q) railroad. The building was razed and rebuilt in 1950 by the CB&Q. Today, AMTRAK shares the depot with the Wapello County Historical Society museum and Burlington Trailways.

The station is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.





Iowa Association of Railroad Passengers

Gordon R. Canfield, President
November, 2011

Dear Members:

On Monday, October 24, the Des Moines Alliance sponsored a passenger rail conference at the Savery Hotel. Several IARP members in addition to me were in attendance. The thrust of the meeting was for the Des Moines group to put their weight behind the push to get passenger rail from Illinois to Iowa City and then from there to Des Moines and Omaha. Speakers included a congressman from Traverse City, Michigan, The mayor of Normal, Illinois, a representative from the IDOT, Mayor Cownie of Des Moines and others. The moderator was IARP member Mike Kulik. Each of the speakers iterated the economic benefits brought to an area from passenger rail. In the cases of Traverse City and Normal, the benefits are real, measurable and significant. Additionally, it was pointed out that when rail is upgraded for faster service, the freight business increased making it all more worthwhile. These are the stories that must be convincingly told to our legislators.

On September 26, Sonia Ashe of the Iowa Public Interest Research Group interviewed me as a form of a testimonial for passenger rail service in this state. They will be producing a video that will include testimonials from many people and have promised to make it public at some point. This should help to cast an even wider net to tell our story.

Mary Buczek has given you the details for our Ottumwa meeting. Please attend if you can.

Gordon R. Canfield

Harold L. Meeker, age 81, of Grinnell Iowa, passed away Nov.5. after an extended illness. He was a member of IARP, long holding a fascination for passenger rail travel and an avid spokesperson for reviving passenger rail service.

IARP wishes to extend sympathy to Harold's family.



U.S. Department
of Transportation

ADMINISTRATOR

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

OCT 14 2011

Mr. Paul Trombino III, P.E.
Director
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Mr. Trombino:

Thank you for your letter dated September 12, 2011 regarding the Chicago to Iowa City Passenger Rail Project (Project), which the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) had selected to receive \$230 million in High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) funding. In the letter, you request that this \$230 million in funding be separated amongst the two grant applicants, namely the Iowa Department of Transportation (IaDOT) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), based on the distribution described in the Chicago to Iowa City grant application Conceptual Engineering Cost Estimate. This approach would allow IDOT to move forward with implementation of the first phase of the Project within Illinois, while IaDOT refines the service concepts within Iowa through additional planning.

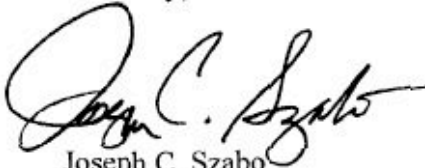
FRA supports your proposal to move the Project forward in a phased approach, with the initial Chicago to Moline, IL operating segment implemented by IDOT. In order to determine the appropriate distribution of the HSIPR funding between IDOT and IaDOT, FRA will work with IDOT to determine the appropriate scope, schedule, and budget to successfully implement the first phase of the Project (which would, again, occur within Illinois). In addition, FRA looks forward to receiving an amended Agreement in Principle between IDOT and IaDOT reflecting this phased approach and individual state responsibility for implementing Project improvements in each state.

FRA is also pleased to work with IaDOT to award and implement the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail System Planning Study (Study). The Study will assess passenger rail service options between Chicago and Iowa and was selected for \$1 million in HSIPR funding.

My staff has finalized award documents with IaDOT and we stand ready to support you in the obligation of the award and the subsequent initiation of the Study. This Study will be an important step in framing the future of passenger rail service within Iowa.

Please feel free to contact Wendy Messenger of my staff at 202-493-6396 or wendy.messenger@dot.gov, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator

cc: Ann Schneider, Acting Secretary, Illinois DOT

Dear Train Festival Sponsor,

We would like to take a moment to thank you for your involvement with Train Festival 2011. We realize that thousands of people had a hand in promoting this event, and we hope that our note of thanks will be passed on to all of those who devoted their time, energy, and hard work to make it a success.

This event was truly a wonderful way to showcase the Quad Cities to the world, in particular the city of Rock Island with its rich and remarkable history of railroads and river boats. We were amazed at the number of people we met who had traveled literally across the country to attend.

We hope the promoters of this event see it as much of a success as those of us who attended. Hopefully, we can look forward to the another Train Festival, right here in the Quad Cities again, very soon. If this grows into a regularly scheduled event, many, many people will be marking their calendars a year in advance.

Our Sincere Thanks,

Clint and Martie Dixon
Reynolds, Illinois

IARP CONTACTS

President

Gordon Canfield
2005 Spring Street
Grinnell, IA 50112
641-236-345
canfigor@hotmail.com

Vice President

Penny Roeder
900 University Avenue
Dubuque, Iowa 52001-6151
563-588-9655

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

Richard 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



CHANGES

Gordon Canfield has a new home email address:

canfigor@hotmail.com

Tim Kenyon's title has changed from Membership Chairman and Excursion Director to Marketing Director. This better describes his desire to promote IARP.

Mary Buczek may be sending email messages to the membership with the email address iarp.news@gmail.com

She created this email address several years for an easy way to send messages to the membership. She is currently entering member email addresses.

If you want to start receiving timely email addresses, please forward your email address.

IARP MEETING

November 19, 2011 - Ottumwa, 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



IARP
IOWA ASSOCIATION
OF RAIL PASSENGERS

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