Iowa Rails
Iowa Association of Railroad passengers
March 2012

March 24, 2012 meeting will be in Iowa City

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 marybucz@iailti.com.

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

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.
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

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
IARP CONTACTS

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website:
WWW.iowarailpassengers.org

Upcoming Events

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
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