



March Meeting

The March meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on March 11, 2023 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. There were 14 members present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter. Members in attendance were: John Chambers, Jack Evans, Larry & Kathy Spahn, Rob McKnight, Tom Johnston, Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Paul Morgan, Connie & Mike Payton, Ed Brinkmeyer, Jimmie Lovell, and Bryson Spahn.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 22, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona. Potluck dinner begins at 11:30 am.

Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxfDif_ezgw3UYo

Museum Open Five Days a Week

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 began a new era in the life of the museum complex at Carona. As a result of a recent decision by the Heartlands Board of Directors, the museum opened at 10:00 am on March 1st. The museum was open on March 2nd through Sunday, March 5th for its first full week of being open to the public. Going forward, the museum will be open to the public, Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm each day. John Chambers is taking care of visitors and other tasks at the museum during those days. We have only been open on a regular schedule for about three weeks, but during that time, there has been a slow increase of visitors coming to the complex after hearing that we are open regularly.

A reporter from the Parsons Sun came out to do a story as well as TV coverage from KSNF-TV in Joplin, MO. The video for the KSN interview can be found here:

<https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/local-news/southeast-kansas-museum-celebrates-railroad-history/>

The Parsons Sun ran their story in the March 24 edition. It made the front page. Press releases of our new hours has been sent to all of the news publications in the area as well as being on our main web page and our Facebook page. As the weather warms up, we anticipate more visitors.



From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.



This photo was taken in 2011 on the Winfield Ride. The view is along the route going through the Flint Hills in mid April. Photo is from the Larry Spahn collection.

Announcements

- The annual car attendant safety meeting was held after the March meeting at Carona. Anyone wishing to work train rides this year needs to complete the annual safety training and quiz. Any new member or any member that has NOT attended the safety meeting previously must attend the safety training. If you have attended a previous safety training, the online test is now available. Contact Brian Carlson if you are interested in the online test.

Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

bcarlson@ckt.net

620-820-9665 (leave message)

Membership Appreciation Day

Final plans were made at the March meeting in regards to the Membership Appreciation Day on April 22, 2023. There will be a covered dish potluck dinner that starts at 11:30 am followed by the monthly meeting at 1:00 pm. There will also be door prizes! Remember, the normal April meeting date was scheduled for April 8th. However, since that is Easter weekend the April meeting was moved to April 22nd. Hope to see you there!



- Photos by Brian Carlson

Train Ride Requests

A list of ride requests for 2023 has been submitted to the railroad. After the railroad has had time to look at the list and see what might fit in their calendar, we will hear back from them. As soon as we hear from them we will pass along the information.

Photo Section - NEO - Photos from Leon Sapp Collection (Jeff Cooney)



NEO Headquarters, 11-66



NEO @ MP Connection, Carona 3-2-63



NEO Extra 704, Columbus, KS

March 11, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

The March 11, 2023 meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was brought to order by President Larry Spahn at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes of previous meeting: Larry Spahn moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Jack Evans seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: After the presentation of the treasurer's report, John Chambers moved, Paul Morgan seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Old Business:

Membership Appreciation Day:

It was decided that the Membership Appreciation Day would be held on April 22, 2023 with the potluck dinner starting at 11:30 am and the meeting at 1:00 pm.

Insurance on contents of Museum:

Larry Spahn presented a proposal for insuring the contents of the buildings at Carona. The proposal was for \$100,000 coverage on contents with a \$5,000 deductible. The annual premium would be \$687.00. John Chambers moved to present the proposal to Rick Webb. Jack Evans seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

Discuss status of train ride requests:

Discussion was held in regards to train ride requests.

Museum Report:

John Chambers gave a museum report.

New Business:

Snapper Riding Mower:

Tom Johnston moved to offer the Snapper riding mower to Kevin Anselmi. John Chambers seconded the motion and the motion passed by the membership present.

Vacuum for museum:

Tom Johnston moved to purchase a new vacuum cleaner for the museum. John Chambers seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Bryson Spahn moved to adjourn the meeting. Jack Evans seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.