



## November Meeting

The November meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands was held on November 11, 2023 in the Webb Center at Carona, KS. This was the annual meeting and there were 23 members present and two guests present. Minutes of the meeting can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Members in attendance were: Kathy & Larry Spahn, Jack Evans, Paul Morgan, John & Brenda Randall, Dick Rauniker, John Chambers, W.D. Carter, Denzil & Ivan Voorhees, Darrell Cave & Carol Lewis, Rob McKnight, Brian Carlson, Jim & Lois Carlson, Bob Capps, Tom Johnston, Bob Still, Mike & Connie Payton, and Bryson Spahn. The two guests were Becky Ward and Al Pfeiffer.

## Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center in Carona.

## Heartlands - YouTube

Check out our YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxtDlf\\_ezgw3UyQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMIkqWyCxtDlf_ezgw3UyQ)

## Watco Christmas Express

The annual Christmas rides for the Pittsburg Schools will be held on December 7th. There will be two rides, the first leaving at 9:30 am and the other at 11:00 am. Preliminary expected rider count for the rides consist of 547 students and probably close to 20 teachers. The first ride is looking at 308 students on the first train and 239 on the second. The train will board and depart from the intersection of Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg. This very special train ride is not open to the public and has always been well received by everyone who gets to ride on this train. Any members wanting to assist with this ride, please meet at the loading area by 9:00 am.

## Holiday Christmas Trains

Things will be different this year for the Christmas Train in Pittsburg. Since the merger of the Canadian Pacific and the Kansas City Southern, as with all mergers, things are a bit different. This year the KCS Holiday Express will not be coming to Pittsburg. Instead, the Holiday Train begun by the Canadian Pacific 25 years ago will be making a stop in Pittsburg this year. The CPKC Holiday Train is scheduled to arrive in Pittsburg at 11:15 am along North Michigan Avenue between East 7th and East 10th Streets. (This is around the location of the former KCS Depot). The music program will begin at 11:30 and last till 12:00. Proceeds from the Holiday Train go to supporting local food banks.

The Holiday Express, which the KCS brought to Pittsburg on an annual basis will be operating in 20 communities in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. Although it is not coming to Pittsburg, the Holiday Express will have a smaller engagement this year. From more more details on all of CPKC's holiday trains, here is the URL.

<https://www.cpkcr.com/en/community/HolidayTrain>

## From our Past

We will be featuring photos from our past for awhile.

*These two photos are from the 2015 KCS Holiday Express train. In the 1st photo, the four individuals facing the camera are Ivan & Denzil Voorhees, Tom Johnston and Dave Parker. In the 2nd photo, Tom and Ivan help a child exit the train. Photos are from the Larry Spahn collection.*



## Announcements

- The CPKS Holiday Train will be in Pittsburg on November 28, 2023. Arrival is scheduled for 11:15 am with the musical program to run from 11:30-12:00.

### Heart of the Heartlands

Any questions, comments or suggestions, contact:

Brian Carlson

[bcarlson@ckt.net](mailto:bcarlson@ckt.net)

620-820-9665 (leave message)

## Museum Director Report for October

John Chambers gave his monthly museum report. In summarizing the report, he said that attendance had continued to be small since Labor Day weekend. He mentioned about possibly decorating the 1023 for Christmas but was unable to locate decorations for the train. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to not decorate the 1023. John also mentioned that mice are present in the building. A plan to tackle the problem was discussed. A lengthy discussion arose over the SEK Museum Alliance when John mentioned it. John said he would attend the Alliance's next meeting, November 13, and offer to host an Alliance meeting.

## Heartlands Board of Directors

During the annual meeting, election of board members took place. The current terms of board members, Darrell Cave, Jack Evans and Larry Spahn expire at the end of 2023. The three were elected to serve for another three year term which will expire at the end of 2026. During the separate meeting of the board that followed the conclusion of the annual meeting, Larry Spahn was re-elected to be president, Connie Payton, vice-president and Brian Carlson, secretary-treasurer. The complete list of board members and the expiration of their terms is listed here. We thank all of our board members for their time and service to the Heart of the Heartlands.

### December 2024

Brian Carlson (Secretary-Treasurer), Connie Payton (Vice President), Ed Brinkmeyer

### December 2025

John Randall, Kathy Spahn, Paul Morgan

### December 2026

Darrell Cave, Jack Evans, Larry Spahn (President)

## December Meeting

During the board meeting that followed the annual meeting, it was decided to cancel the December meeting of the Heart of the Heartlands. We normally do cancel the December meeting due to the large number of conflicts that seem to arise in December. The next meeting will be January 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Webb Center.

## November 11, 2023 - Heart of the Heartlands - Minutes

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

**Suspension of meeting:** Thanks was given to long time Heartland member, Tom Johnston, for his work in preparing our entree of freshly barbecued pork and baked beans from his own special recipes. Also, a big thank you was given to the members who provided many tasty side dishes and dessert. John Randall moved to suspend the meeting for the dinner and Darrell Cave seconded the motion. The motion passed by those present,

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Darrell Cave moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Denzil Voorhees seconded the motion, the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** The presentation of the treasurer's report, by treasurer Brian Carlson, included the monthly report as well as a year report from November 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023. Lois Carlson moved, Jack Evans seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was passed by the membership in attendance.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Watco Christmas Express:**

The annual Christmas rides for the Pittsburg Schools will be held on December 7th. There will be two rides, the first leaving at 9:30 am and the other at 11:00 am. The train will board and depart from the intersection of Monroe and Elm Streets in Pittsburg. This very special train ride is not open to the public and has always been well received by everyone who gets to ride on this train.

### **New Business:**

#### **KCS/CP Christmas Train:**

The Kansas City Southern Christmas train will not be anything as what we have experienced over the past years. The familiar KCS Holiday Express will not be operating this year. Instead, the Canadian Pacific's Christmas train will be coming to Pittsburg. This train is not setup for walking through the train. Instead one of the box cars has a fold out stage and will be hosting a musical concert. The train is scheduled to stop in Pittsburg, Kansas at 11:15 am on November 28th for a thirty minute visit. The train will be located along north Michigan Avenue between East Seventh and East Tenth Streets. This schedule will exclude all of the school kids that will be in school and most everyone else will be at work.

#### **Year in Review**

In times past, time was spent reviewing our numerous train rides but unfortunately this year it will be easier to remember. We started off late in the year with our first ride being the Little Balkans Days ride out of Pittsburg. These two rides were well attended with many first time riders as well those who have

not missed a ride since their beginning. Our second ride was the two Artist Alley rides out of Chanute. These rides have also been well attended over the many years since Watco first started the excursion rides for the public. The wide spread repair of the rail infrastructure across the entire system which included much bridge and trestle repair required the canceling of several rides in and around the system. Hopefully next year will allow us to bring all of these very popular rail rides back to the general public.

### **Museum Report:**

John Chambers gave his monthly museum report. In summarizing the report, he said that attendance had continued to be small since Labor Day weekend. He mentioned about possibly decorating the 1023 for Christmas but was unable to locate decorations for the train. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to not decorate the 1023. John also mentioned that mice are present in the building. A plan to tackle the problem was discussed. A lengthy discussion arose over the SEK Museum Alliance when John mentioned it. John said he would attend the Alliance's next meeting, November 13, and offer to host an Alliance meeting. A more detailed museum report is in the November newsletter.

During the discussion in regards to hosting an SEK Museum Alliance, Darrell Cave moved to provide refreshments for a light breakfast with no lunch. Tom Johnston seconded the motion, and the motion passed by the membership present.

### **Communications, Announcement, Additional Items:**

- Rob McKnight asked if there was any additional information in regards to the signage discussion from October. Darrell Cave reported that if we can get 2,000 visitors a year, we would probably qualify for the sign program.
- Rob McKnight mentioned the deteriorating condition of the steps to the 1023 and the Empire Engine. Larry mentioned that John Parsons had asked Larry earlier in the week if we had received the steps they were making for us. Larry informed Mr. Parsons that we had not received the steps. Mr. Parsons said he would check on the status of the steps.
- John Chambers mentioned that the Tri-State group may have a HO-layout available soon. He said that kids like the layouts when they see them. John said he would see if they would be willing to donate the layout to the Heartlands.
- John Chambers also mentioned that he wants to contact Brutus about upcoming student events. Perhaps while a group is visiting Brutus, they might also want to visit our museum. Mentioned the importance of advertising to any group possible.
- Lois Carlson suggested contacting SEK Family Living and Kansas magazines to advertise.

### **Election of board members:**

The current terms of board members Darrell Cave, Jack Evans and Larry Spahn were to expire at the end of 2023. Nominations were asked for the three positions. All three agreed to serve another term. At that time, Tom Johnston moved that they be elected to the positions by acclamation. Paul Morgan seconded the motion, motion was passed by the membership present.

Darrell Cave moved to adjourn the meeting. John Randall seconded the motion and it passed by the membership present.

### **Annual Board Meeting**

At the conclusion of the general meeting, the annual board meeting was held. Board members present were: Darrell Cave, John Randall, Paul Morgan, Jack Evans, Kathy & Larry Spahn, Connie Payton and Brian Carlson. Board member Ed Brinkmeyer was not present.

Board president, Larry Spahn, called the meeting to order.

Nominations for board officers were held. The current board officers are: Larry Spahn - President, Connie Payton - Vice President, Brian Carlson - Secretary-Treasurer. Since the three current board officers were in agreement to continue in their present capacities, John Randall moved the three officers retain their positions by reason of acclamation. Darrell Cave seconded the motion and it was passed by the board.

Darrell Cave moved to cancel the December meeting of the Heartlands. Jack Evans seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the board.

Darrell Cave moved to adjourn the board meeting. Jack Evans seconded the motion and the motion was passed by the board.