



THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

The Newsletter of the McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society

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Spring 2022

It Was A Lot Of Fun!

Volunteers from the railroad society have been hard at work for several months refurbishing and upgrading the railroad museum, and January 30 was the big day selected to unveil it to the public. A one word description of the event is GREAT!



Conductor Sandifer: 'Welcome Aboard'!

There are new displays, a killer collection of vintage railroad related local photographs, other unique memorabilia, an eye-popping HO model layout of downtown Shreveport in the 1960's, and new lighting to make it all stand out. A crowd of railroad friends and the curious from the general public came, saw, and loved it!

As they enter the museum, visitors are "greeted" by Conductor J. W. Sandifer (at least, the late Mr. Sandifer's uniform, donated by

his family) who is standing next to a pot belly stove (on loan from Jim McClure) from a KCS caboose. A little further down is another new item: a light globe from Shreveport's Texas & Pacific passenger station that glows again in a table lamp mode (courtesy Tom DuVal).



Visitors pack around new model picking out remembered landmarks



Here's close-in view of a familiar landmark in the model: the old McNeill Pumping Station (although the food trucks in the parking lot are more familiar in recent times!)



Above: Visitors looking at the many photos and other items on display. The T&P light globe can be seen shining in the far background
Right: A Lionel-scale train circles the room, complete with sound effects





A closer look at the light fixture from T&P station

There's plenty more to see, read, and enjoy, and the new railroad museum is a terrific added attraction for the site that is sure to increase visitation.

The railroad society also used the occasion to rebrand itself "Shreveport Railroad Museum" and unveiled its new graphic logo.

Liz Swaine was indispensable in promoting the event,



Here's the new railroad society logo

performing as on-site hostess serving snacks, and then master of ceremonies for a program in the old ozone room that presented certificates of appreciation to the volunteers and to the Railroad Museum itself for enhancing downtown. Thank

you to Jim McClure, Tom DuVal, Jason Busey, Jim Monk, Jessica Monk, Roger DeVilbiss, Frank Head, Gayle Reece, and Dave Bland. And a thank you also to Liz Swaine for making the event so successful!

Looking ahead, we're planning to have a "grand opening" and Train Day at the Museums on Sunday afternoon May 15, which will be about the same time as national train week. There will be food trucks, live music, railroad-related activities, and, of course, tours of both great museums. More information as planning proceeds.

[Photographs by Mike & Mark Mangham]



Certificate of Appreciation for the volunteers who made the refurbishment of Railroad Museum possible. L-R: Gayle Reece, Jim McClure, Dave Bland, Jason Busey, Tom DuVal, Jessica Monk, Jim Monk

Special Gifts

Bill Wiener has made another generous donation from the William B. Wiener, Jr. Foundation to McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society. Thank you very, very much to Mr. Wiener for his continued support over many years of a truly unique historic place that we are fortunate to have in Shreveport.



Liz Swaine congratulates Dave Bland with a certificate of appreciation for the Railroad Museum

Peggy and Rory Wisner have made a gift to the Preservation Society in memory of Jim Nuttall, Peggy's father and a very special friend of the Pumping Station. Thank you so much to the Wisners for this thoughtful remembrance.

Special gifts from friends like these plus almost \$12,000 that has been received during this year's membership renewal request made in December will give the Preservation Society a big boost toward raising the money needed to operate without a deficit again this year. We need more than \$40,000 in 2022 for operating expenses and we're not there yet, but looking good so far! Last year actually finished with a small surplus that will be used for one or more projects that have been waiting in the wings for the funding needed.

GIVE FOR GOOD IS COMING

Regular readers know that the Community Foundation of North Louisiana has been organizing an annual online fundraising event on behalf of local charities, and this year's event will be on May 3. Give For Good has become a big deal for the Preservation Society that raises almost as much as our member donations toward what is needed for annual expenses. It is an online-only event and friends use a special website to donate to Shreveport Water Works Museum/McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society. The Community Foundation handles everything and adds a partial match of 10-15% to the donation.

So, how can you get involved? Mark your calendar for May 3, 2021! When the day arrives, just bring up the Give For Good website (giveforgoodnla.org) and "search" for McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society or Shreveport Water Works Museum then follow the directions to make a donation. Note that the program is online only and runs midnight to midnight on May 3. The website is also a handy way to keep track of how things are going as the day moves along. If you won't be available May 3, or if you don't want to forget, you can make a donation before then beginning April 19, but it won't be posted until May 3. **Remember: Tuesday May 3!**

Election Returns

The annual membership meeting of McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society took place on February 7 and Conway Link, Paul Williams, Marilyn Joiner, and Nettie Brown were reelected to a new three year term of service on the Board. Dave Bland was nominated for Board membership and was elected to a term ending 2024. Dave is a new member on the board but is well known to everyone around SWWM due to his hard work on behalf of the railroad society.

The other serving Board members are Jeff Little, Liz Swaine, Stacy Brown, John Atkins, George Bakowski, David Burroughs, and David Kunz. The newly constituted board convened after the membership meeting and elected officers for the coming year. The slate is unchanged and is Conway Link President, Marilyn Joiner Vice President, Paul Williams Treasurer, Liz Swaine Secretary, and Dale Ward Executive Director.

Thank you very much to all these individuals for donating their time and talent to operating the Preservation Society and protecting a historic crown jewel.

McNeill Street Pumping Station Preservation Society
P.O. Box 957
Shreveport, LA 71163

You Can Help.....Make A Donation!

The Preservation Society needs money for restoration and operation of the museum. Your donation can be put to good use!

Name _____

email _____
(If you provide your email address, we can send you occasional updates on activities)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to MSPSPS, P.O. Box 957, Shreveport, LA 71163. Checks payable to MSPSPS
Or, donations can be made online at www.shreveportwaterworks.org