

# Fullerton Train Museum Newsletter November 2023

## Halloween at the Museum — Ghouls and Goblins and Lots of Little Ones!

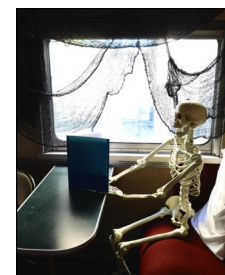
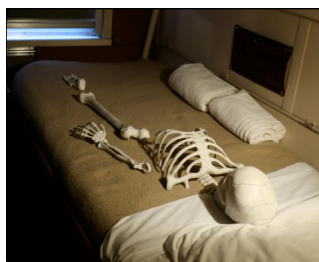


Well, it was another successful Spooky Train at the Fullerton Train Museum on October 21, 2023! All the cute little goblins were dressed in Halloween costumes and as were some of the adults. A lot of the costumes showed a lot of imagination. The usual characters were present, like the talking pumpkin and the old conductor. There were a lot of little critters and bugs loose in the cars as well as some passen-



gers that seem to have never left the cars. A few even died in their beds.

This event could not have happened without the help from the set-up crew on the previous Saturday. A big THANKS to all who helped make this event a success and all the visitors who came out to the museum.



## Annual Ridenour Award Presentation



It was an honor to present the Clarence Ridenour Award to Richard 'Rocco' Zito on October 14, 2023, at the annual Dinner at the Depot. The award is presented each year to a SCRPA member who shows dedication, inspiration and leadership within the organization.

Rocco received the award this year for his continued support in our various ongoing restoration projects. He helped Stu Proctor in the organization of small shed. Instead of taking 30 minutes to find a screw or bolt, you now can find items quickly because everything has a place and is labeled. He comes every Saturday, except the first Saturday of the month where he goes to the IAM union meeting. Rocco will come on Saturday and ask, "Ok what needs to be done today!", no matter what it is, he will do it.

Come out and **volunteer** your time at the museum. Do you like to help with:

- event planning and organization
- working on vintage railcars or learning how to work on vintage railcars
- becoming knowledgeable about history and teaching others
- fundraising and public relations and marketing

Contact us at 714-278-0648 and let us know what your interests are..we can find a place for you!



### MUSEUM HOURS:

Open the first and third Saturday of every month.  
9 am to noon  
Work parties on alternating Saturdays

## President's message

To Members and Friends of the Museum,

I want to start by giving a big 'Thank You' to Mary & Julia and their band of decorators and helpers, for making this year's Halloween event a big success! The cars were also decorated with a talking pumpkin and banjo-playing and singing skeletons thanks to Marty. The 238 guests had a spooky/ghoulish experience.

As the year comes to a close, we look back at the progress that has been made. The Railroad Operations Committee continues with the window replacements, new window coverings, air conditioning, and Eagle Scout projects. The Docents continue to expand merchandise and train sales, grow our Open Houses & Special events.

These accomplishments could not happen without the dedicated ALL-Volunteer group that puts in many hours to keep your museum growing and especially to keep it FREE to the public to visit. My congratulations to everyone who has donated their time to make this all possible. Thank you, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

It is time for our annual Membership and Year-End Donation Drive. See the information and application in the newsletter. If, in addition to your membership if you would like to volunteer, let us know. We are in need of a chairman for the membership committee, if you are interested, please contact me at [hpbenash@att.net](mailto:hpbenash@att.net) or 714-336-1690.

I am also saddened to announce that Richard Dennis White passed away on October 23. Dennis has been a long-time member, volunteer, historian and served on the Board of Directors of the Fullerton Train Museum. He will be greatly missed. Services will be held in December and the family has suggested that instead of flowers, donations be made to the Fullerton Train Museum.

Regards,  
Harold Benash, President

## UPCOMING EVENTS and ACTIVITIES Mark YOUR Calendars

### NOVEMBER

- 18 — Open House Tours—Open to the Public, 9 am to noon
- 25 — Railroad Operations Committee Work Day, 9 am to noon

### DECEMBER

- 2 — Open House Tours/ROC Work Day — Open to the Public, 9 am to noon
- 9 — ROC Work Day and Santa Set-Up, 9 am to noon
- 16 — Santa Arrives at the Museum — Open to the Public, 9 am to noon

### MORE DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2024:

- March 23 — Easter Bunny Arrives
- March 30 — Model Railroad Equipment Swap Meet



Santa's Coming Dec. 16!

### **Do you have a student who needs community service hours? We need YOU!**

- Please help us make our events successful! Volunteers needed to:
- Help decorate the cars a week before the event
  - Crowd control and Guest Services
- Contact the SCRPA Hotline at 714-278-0648 to volunteer.

## Fullerton Train Museum

**Mission:** The Fullerton Train Museum will be the region's destination attraction that serves as a center for gathering, preserving and interpreting significant railroad artifacts -- including railcars, photos, charts, plats, maps, books and such dioramas as depots and model trains.

**Vision:** To provide an educational atmosphere that vividly brings to life the cultural and historical importance of rail transportation through the preservation, conservation and display of historic railcars and memorabilia.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT- Fullerton Troop 292  
ABRAM FUENTES  
BUILDS A PATIO COVER BETWEEN THE STORAGE SHEDS**

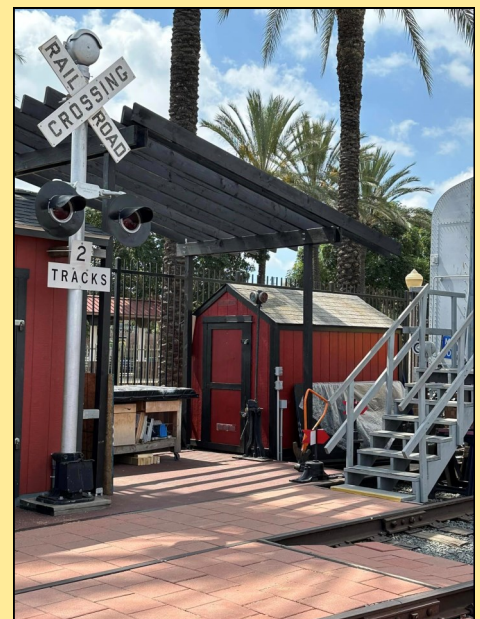
Eagle Scout, Abram Fuentes chose the Fullerton Train Museum to pursue his Eagle Scout Leadership Honor. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts BSA program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank after a lengthy review process.

Abram was responsible for coordinating with FTM staff to design and build the Patio Cover between the storage sheds. This included coordinating and managing his volunteers, getting materials and day-of construction.

The project provides protection from the elements for work projects and a covered location for docents to be out of the sun to meet and greet visitors at the entrance to the museum. We began the project on September 17 with the painting, assembly and installation of the support frames and placing the roof joists. The following weekend, the fascia boards, joist blocking, sheathing, underlayment, drip strip and roofing material were installed. The project is complete!

A BIG "thank you" from the museum to Abram, his fellow boy scouts, their fathers, and Abram's family for a job well done. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

The museum also wishes to congratulate Abram on his achievement towards his Eagle Scout Award. And we Thank him for selecting the Fullerton Train Museum for his project.



### **Railroad Operations Committee Update — ROC**

**VIDEO LIBRARY**—a video library has been created in the Palm Leaf. Older VHS and cassettes are in the process of being converted to disc for the new video player equipment.

**KITCHEN** in UP 5001 and **BAR** in UP 6101 — we now have running water in both areas.

**FAIRMONT SPEEDER** — the speeder is operational along with the trailer for passengers. Opening TBD. Operators are undergoing training and insurance and liability waivers are being put in place.

**POWER WASHER** — a new power washer will be used to clean equipment and prepare for painting, roof coatings and normal cleaning.

Museum Crew Goes to **Carney's Restaurant** in Los Angeles to Replace Windows

Carney's Restaurant in Los Angeles, the hot dog and hamburger restaurant in a yellow 1930's Union Pacific rail car on Sunset Boulevard, reached out to the museum for some help with a damaged window.

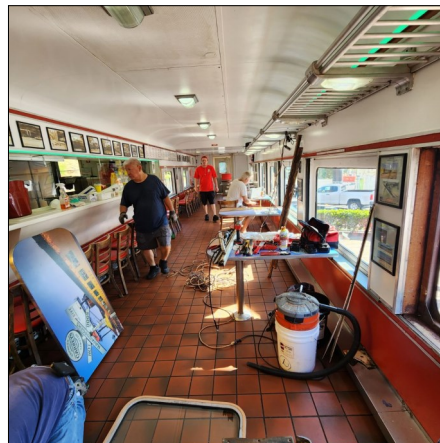
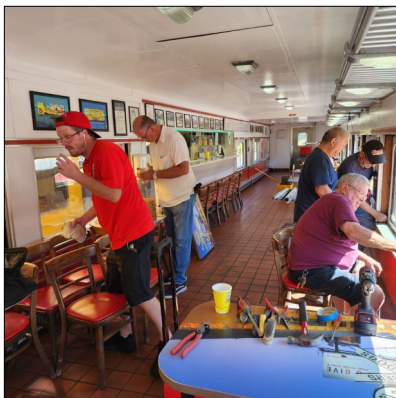
A couple FTM members went to check on the proposed window remove and replace project and after some discussion with other members, it was decided that FTM would take it on. The project team included FTM volunteers Harold, Tommy, Duane, Eric, and George M.

Once they said yes, the team realized it was going to be an early morning! They met at 5 am and headed to Los Angeles to complete the project before the restaurant opened at 11 am.

The team removed and replaced the broken window in time for the first lunch visitors. Success was accomplished and as the team noted, there were moments of doubt and "oh boy, what did we do." Overcoming the hard work, they finished the install and even George M. had time to make repairs to the exterior of the rail car.

A Big "Thank you" goes out the team for the work, and to Carney's for the generous donation.

So, the real question is .... How many hot dogs did the team eat while working???



## 2024 Membership and Year End Donation Campaign

It is time for our Annual Membership Drive. Your membership supports the Fullerton Train Museum in so many ways. We thank you in advance and ask you to continue your needed support by renewing, joining or simply making a year end donation today.

Your financial support continues our growth and development. We are proud to say that 2023 has been a successful year. With your membership and/or donation we can continue to serve the community and keep our “all-volunteer” staff busy. Here are a few things your money goes to:

**Railcar Operations** – Volunteers work tirelessly on many projects to keep your museum running. Electrical and air conditioning, painting and window replacement and maintenance. These cars are old and need lots of up-keep. You can find on average 10-15 volunteers almost every weekend at the FTM.

**Saturday Open House and Events** – We continue to be open the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month. 10-20 volunteers step up each weekend to greet guests, provide a history lesson and maintain the site.

As with most non-profits, our expenses continue to rise. Your tax-deductible membership is vital to the success of the FTM. Your membership also allows you to volunteer – to become a docent or work on the cars and grow the museum.

Enclosed is our **membership application** for renewals and new members. You can also renew and join on our website and pay via credit card. Click on the “The SCRPA” tab, then click on “Membership” to pay by credit card.

Visit [www.fullertontrainmuseum.org](http://www.fullertontrainmuseum.org) to join and learn more.

Again, thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions, please call us at 714-278-0648.

### 2024 Board of Director Elections

3 Year Term Elections: Harold Benash, James Hoffmann, Rudolph Morgenfruh,  
Annastasia Norris

Officers:

President: Harold Benash

Vice President: Dave Norris

Secretary: Annastasia Norris

Treasurer: Mary Proctor

### **Memorial Service for R. Dennis White Information**

Date: December 16—Saturday

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Christ Lutheran Church

820 W. Imperial Hwy., Brea, CA

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Fullerton Train Museum.

# Fullerton Train Museum

*"A walk through time"*

www.fullertontrainmuseum.org

## Membership and Donation Application

Southern California Railway Plaza Association (SCRPA) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational corporation dedicated to promoting public appreciation and awareness of Southern California's rich rail history through the **Fullerton Train Museum** at the Train Depot in downtown Fullerton, California. SCRPA focuses on educating youth about rail heritage and safety, conserving and restoring railcars and creating a museum with railroad equipment and artifacts.

### Benefits of Membership Include:

- HotRail NEWSLETTER -- The informative newsletter is emailed to all members on a quarterly basis. It lets members know about upcoming events and activities, volunteer opportunities and rail-related education.
- VOLUNTEERING – There are many volunteer opportunities available, but you must become a member to participate. Work on the railcars, plan and host events, become a docent and give tours.
- QUARTERLY Members-only events: Movie Nights and dinners with guest speakers and train-related programs.

I would like to join or renew my membership to the Fullerton Train Museum...

(Membership is from January 1 through December 31 and must be renewed annually.)

Join

Renewal

Individual - \$35 per year

Family - \$60 per year

Engineer - \$100 per year

Yardmaster - \$250 per year

Trainmaster - \$500 per year

Benefactor - \$1,000 per year

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail my newsletter for \$25.00 a year

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute to the success of the Train Museum with my additional donation of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Family membership cards will be made out to the Smith Family, as an example.)

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Child: \_\_\_\_\_ Child: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members (spouse and children)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (needed for electronic newsletters and correspondence)

Please send this application with the appropriate check or money order payable to:

**Fullerton Train Museum**

P. O. Box 5195

Fullerton, CA 92838-5195

**Volunteer Interest (circle one):** railcars          events docent

Or join and/or renew online with a **Credit Card** at <http://www.fullertontrainmuseum.org/scrpa/membership>

**Fullerton Train Museum  
P.O. Box 5195  
Fullerton, CA 92838-5195**

***Address correction requested***

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Fullerton Train Museum Newsletter

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Visit us on the web at [www.fullertontrainmuseum.org](http://www.fullertontrainmuseum.org)

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Send your letters to the editor to the address above

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### **SCRPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Harold Benash: President  
Allison Benash  
George Engelage IV  
Denis Hergenreter  
Jim Hoffmann, Movie Night Chairman and Docent Chairman  
David Norris: Quarterly Dinner Program Chairman  
Mary Proctor: Treasurer/Secretary  
Stuart Proctor  
Eric Shishima  
Martin Kluck  
Kathy Norris  
Rudolph Morgenfruh  
Annastasia Norris, Secretary  
Andrew Walsh

### **SCRPA APPOINTED CHAIRPERSONS**

Poster Contest Kathy Norris  
Activities tba

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Board of Directors Meetings at 9:00 a.m.**  
Second Saturday of every Month

### **Quarterly Membership Dinners**

Location tbd

at 6 p.m.

Second Wednesday of  
January, April, July, October

### **Railroad Operations Committee Work Days**

9 am – noon at the rail cars  
Every Saturday

### **Fullerton Train Museum Hours**

**Free Tours**

1st and 3rd Saturday of every month

### **Movie Night —**

TBD