

Incumbent

From Don Mason:

I have been a Board member for the last three years. My personal objective is to ensure that the MTM continues to grow and thrive in supporting its member and customers.

I have participated in the following MTM activities:

- *Member of the 3 person recruiting committee that hired the current Executive Director*
- *Coordinated MTM participation in the Bluestem group's development of the MTM Interpretive Plan that outlines JSR museum priorities for the next few years*
- *Coordinated MTM's Equipment Committee that plans Winter and Summer maintenance and restoration for MTM's rolling stock.*
- *Assisted in the review and update of MTM Policies for MTM Board Development*
- *Contributed financially to the MTM.*

I am excited by our recent growth and recognition and would like to continue participating in activities that have helped that growth.

From John Radimecky:

"I think I can help the museum maintain the positive trend of better support by patronage, better coordination between teams, better financials by careful planning and maintaining solid operations with education and training.

I am a planner by nature and hope to employ some of my project planning skills on these areas. For those who do not know me well, I live near the roundhouse and joined MTM as a lifetime member in 2014. I am currently a student engineer and volunteer a lot at Osceola, and I have joined the training team to help Ward G. and Morten J. already. I have a lot more to contribute."

Incumbent

From George Bergh:

"I would be interested in continuing to serve on the MTM Board of Directors, bringing passion, experience (26 years) and leadership to the BOD. My hope and goal is to see the organization continue to grow and thrive as a community resource and museum in Minnesota."

From Tom Rafferty:

Ladies and gentlemen of MTM,

While I have been an active member of MTM for over 7 years, my first experience with MTM was as a passenger of a train in Osceola, WI, that was being pulled by a steam locomotive. Not many years later, my wife and I came down "to the city" because our young children wanted to see Thomas.

Fast forward several years. I found myself visiting the roundhouse and got to know a group of guys that were working on a little switch engine. I found an outlet for my creativity and skills repairing and restoring old rail equipment and sometimes the rail itself. I have made numerous friends here.

The membership of MTM is both passionate and committed. We all share a desire to nurture and grow the museum and its related activities.

If elected to the board, it will be my desire to sustain and grow the museum and its outreach activities. With a background in management of people and projects in an industrial setting I have years of experience in working with diverse groups and building consensus. My daily responsibilities require coordination between multiple groups that sometimes have different desires and goals. Working in this environment has taught me that while all voices need to be heard and considered ultimately the decisions need to be based on fact and with the best interests of all in mind.

In the past year the museum management and the board have worked hard to provide stability to the museum finances and put the entire enterprise on a path of sustainability and growth. My goals as a board member would be the maintenance of stability of the museum management and a continued review of the museum operations to ensure sustainability of the entire organization such that it is here for generations to come.

I look forward to working with and for each and every one of you.

Fellow Members:

As a younger volunteer at MTM, I am deeply concerned with ensuring the Museum's continued success. MTM has provided me with endless opportunities to learn about railroading and railroad history. I want to help make those same opportunities available to other youth and future generations.

While my age means that I do not have many years of experience working in a business environment or expertise in management, I do have the perspective of the next generation of volunteers that will eventually take the reins at MTM. My hope is to be able to offer ideas such as how the Museum may be able to incorporate social media to help bring more youth to the organization.

My deepest motivation to bring more people to the Museum and to help MTM succeed is to preserve and perpetuate the history that MTM represents. I volunteer in order to keep the history alive. I volunteer in order to expose young people to the importance of railroading to their history and their daily lives. I volunteer in order to try and give back to the organization for everything it has offered me. Being a member of the Board would allow me to provide more for the organization and to continue to keep the history alive.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Heath

From Andy Corchran:

To answer the question of why I want to be on the MTM board of Directors, one need only look at the personal enjoyment I experience when visiting and volunteering at Jackson Street. I love that my two sons will gladly peel themselves away from whatever electronic distraction they are currently engaged in and eagerly race toward the car when I say we are going to the train museum. I love that my train-loving father always wants to visit Jackson Street or go up to Osceola when he is in town. MTM to me represents the most effort free way to bring the multiple generations together in a way that each of them is as excited as the next to be there. That is what I want to ensure is there for other families, for future generations. In turn, I know those moments are the ones that create life-long devotees to MTM. Handled properly, it is a self-sustaining model which can be used to great effect.

This is why I want to be on the Board, not just to give back some of what MTM has given my family but also to assist however I can in ensuring that we continue to see an influx of fresh visitors and volunteers alike. Obviously though there is so much more required to keep such an organization running. As I have watched the veritable army of volunteers, including Board members, coming together to keep the wheels turning I would be remiss in not offering up my own talents, perspective, ideas and time in the same vein. Any way in which I could contribute to the success and growth of MTM as an organization would be a great point of personal pride and fulfillment.

From Sandy Hagan:

"In my time as a volunteer at MTM I have noted so many volunteers have so much to offer the Museum through their many differing skills and abilities. I know this is a great organization that is headed in the right direction and I would like to do as much as I am able to, assist in its expansion. I want the Museum to be there for all of the interested adults and children to show the past and future of railroading. To, perhaps, be an inspiration for future railroaders.

During most of my employed years I worked for a company that strived to supply only the highest quality produce along with the best service in the local industry. In an area of tough, strong competition this offering of value kept the company strong to this day and I feel a similar program would work well for the Museum.

There are many zones that the Museum can encompass but are they all the right thing for the Museum to do right at this time? Please don't second guess that query by thinking that I want to limit anything or any area. I am only thinking somewhat cautiously about the possibility of overextension of the Museum's current position.

I would like to stress that there are many possible areas the Museum could move in that would likely increase its visibility and viability. Therefore, I feel careful forethought should be used before we embark on too many side ventures at one time. I believe we have so much going for us that we should use caution to keep the inertia pointed in the direction that will gain the most for the Museum.

Last and certainly far from least, I feel we all must continue to work together as a team or group effort to do the most for the Museum."

March 3, 2016

From Noel Petit:

"I have run my own business since 1980 designing, building and selling weather satellite display systems. MTM has been my primary project for the past 23 years. I served on the MTM board from 1997-2004 as representative of JSRH. I have also served several terms in recent years. During this time we saw JSRH attendance grow from a few hundred per year to 10's of thousands thanks to a large cadre of volunteers. I continue to work with the MTM railroad on drug test requirements, radio maintenance and crew training and feel I am qualified to run for the BOD."