

# ENGINE BOOSTER



September 2019

SINCE

1956

www.lalsrm.org



Les Bernell's newly acquired 3/4" scale Canadian National 4-6-2 built by LALS member Roy George (*Garibalde Figueroa photo*)

## 2020 Election Approaches; Nominees Accepted at Meeting Saturday

By Drew LaGaly

Our Nominating Committee for 2020 includes Wayne Crabb, Bill Schirmer and Jim Cammarata. If you are interesting in running, or would like to nominate a member, please contact one of them. Nominations from the floor can be made at our General Meeting on September 21 (note new date). Each nomination must be seconded. The final date for nominations is September 23.

The Board of Directors is asking all candidates to complete a questionnaire. Ask anyone on the Nominating Committee to provide you one. If you would like a digital copy and cannot get in contact

with one of these people, you may email me at [drewlagaly@gmail.com](mailto:drewlagaly@gmail.com). The purpose of the questionnaire is to inform the voting membership in depth about each candidate. The Board expects that the

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Fall Meet Success

By Alex O'Donnell

This year's Fall Meet was a resounding success with plenty of visitors and members alike bringing and running trains. As with most Fall Meets, attendance was slightly less than the Spring Meet, but there was a wide variety of scales and gauges running. Bill Schirmer, Doug Young, Jim DeBiasio, Joe Hayes, Francis Barnes and others helped put on some excellent meals in the Kountry Kitchen. Bill Walker, Diana Manchester, and Ted Merchant helped

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Important Election Dates — See Page 3**

### Public Service

#### September

22, 29 Public rides

#### October

6, 13 Public rides  
20 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant and Gauge 1 operating  
27 Public rides

**Ghost Train Statement page 6**

# SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

By Diana Manchester, Secretary



September 2019

At 7:05 pm on September 9, 2019, the September BOD Meeting was called to order by President Ted Merchant. Eight Directors were present, as well as 37 members.

**President's Report** – Ted Merchant welcomed **Les Kovacs** to the Board. He will serve the rest of this year and through 2020. Ted also thanked the Fall Meet Chairs, Alex O'Donnell and Bill Walker, and all our hardworking volunteers who helped make it a special weekend. The comment heard most often was that “we're all family.” We honored the members who have passed since 2015 in our bell-ringing ceremony.

**Bylaw Changes** - Ted read a draft of the Bylaw additions and changes that will be on the November ballot: a Non-Discrimination statement, Conflict of Interest policy, Qualifications for Board Members, and Suspension/Expulsion policy. The final draft will be shared with all members through the Booster, e-blasts, and in the ballot materials.

**Drawbridge Status** – Ted reported that the drawbridge can be lifted and lowered. He is still working on safety gates to keep trains from running into the bridge when in the upward position. If you lift the bridge, please lower it when you are done. And make sure it is locked, with the “track-joining system” fully in engaged.

**Altmayer Signals** – Member Steve Altmayer is donating his collection of full-sized, functioning railroad signals: four wigwags and two semaphores. We will be transporting them from his home and installing them in various locations throughout the facility. Thank you, Steve for this generous donation.

**Secretary's Report** –The Cammarata family and the Disney Barn both have events on Saturday, September 14. Bill

Walker provided information and ideas about the proposed bi-directional Operations Run, slated for November 9. When he has more logistics in place he will be sharing the full details. Diana passed a sign-up sheet around for names of members want to order the new name badges.

**New dates for Work Days/General Meetings** - Saturdays: September 21, October 19 and November 23. This is to allow more time for candidates' paperwork.

**Membership Report** – Wayne Crabb announced that **Gregg and Jeanne Olson** have both completed their hours for permanent membership to the applause of the members. **Marc Weiss** was introduced and his young son Ryan. Marc had an H0 set as a kid, and his son Ryan has been into trains since age 3, with G-scale, H0 and 0-scale model trains at home. They look forward to spending time with train folks and contributing to the Club. Marc works as a program manager at a bank and is adept with IT. **Tom Hansen** is joining us; we have been getting to know Tom through his presentations offering to design/construct new miniature buildings for our tracks. Tom works as a copy-writer/marketing partner for an advertising agency. **Jake Holman** was formally introduced as a new member; he has spent his entire life at the Club and participated in projects with his father David and brother Zak. He has just graduated from college and will be attending medical school in a year. See photos, right.

**Facility Report** – Jeremy Steinert reported that there is continuing work to be done on signals and track. Doug Young will plan some dates in October for training members interested in learning track work. Ross Harper and Steve Rodstein were thanked for their diligent work on our sprinkler system. The new black trailer at the end of Crystal Springs Drive is for green waste. For emptying yellow mulch bags, we recom-

mend getting someone to help you. Waste containment options are being explored for the West End. We are planning to purchase a 20' metal container to replace our Tuff-Shed tool shed. The new container will offer 160 square feet compared to the 120 we currently have. Type of doors and access TBD.

**Eagle Scout project** is moving forward; they have come out to take measurements and will be in touch.

**New miniature buildings** - Tom Hansen has submitted five FCR's to the Board for five different miniature buildings: a Western town stores front, a grain silo/industrial office, a train tower, and two billboards. A motion was made by Tim to accept this proposal, Les seconded it, and it passed **Ghost Train** – we will be writing a press release to announce that

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Meet our Newest Probies



Our newest members. Top left, Jake Holman; top right, Tom Hansen; and bottom, Marc Weiss with son Ryan and friend Jacob.



# From the SUPER



By  
Jeremy  
Steinert

This Fall Meet was a blast! It was great to see so many of you out on the tracks. Even though it wasn't as busy as the Spring Meet, that turned out to be a good thing as we had few traffic jams on the layout! Everyone I heard from had a wonderful time and we are all looking forward to our next event!

Speaking of which, we'll be having an Operations Meet and a second Steam Only Meet in November. This means that we'll continue to work on our track, signals, and general layout for the next few months. Fall is here and the leaves will start coming down like a snow storm before we know it! Let's keep ahead of the raking and keep our Club looking beautiful.

A special thanks to those who came out to work and fix some track issues last weekend, even in the 99 degree heat! Some lumps on the Mountain Division have been taken out and smoothed.

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone around at the Club, whether it's 8 am or 8 pm. If you do come out at night, make sure to turn off the twist timers in the steaming bays and the lights in the baggage car and workshop area.

## SPLINTERS

(Continued from page 2)

we are suspending the event this year.

**Website** – Zak Holman reported that the software we are using is stable and will provide the functionality we need.

**Fall Steam Day** – Harrison Hitchcock proposed a "Steam Only Run" for Saturday, November 16.

## President's Message



By  
Ted  
Merchant,  
President

Hello Railroad Fans!  
How about that Fall Meet?! This is our fifth consecutive fall meet, and they get better every year.

Alex O'Donnell has chaired most if not all of those meets as he did so this year with Bill Walker. Both Alex and Bill deserve a shout out for doing a terrific job.

Bill Schirmer and Jim DeBiasio managed the Kountry Kitchen with help from Doug Young, Greg Olson and others. The Souvenir stand was in good hands with Martha Figueroa and Jeanne Olson.

Bob Crone and Don Donaldson operated the Gauge-One Railroad. And the Sunday Train Crew ran Sherwood Station and hauled our public guests.

Sunday was a bit busier than we expected; that was a nice surprise. We may modify the program next year to accommodate the crowds.

The President's Auction was a great success: three members now own their own 7 1/2-inch gauge locomotives. The most consistent compliment I heard was that the facility looked great and the hospitality was friendly and abundant. Thanks to all who made it a memorable weekend!

And how about our upcoming elections?! Our Board is only as good as you the members make it.

We need at least eight Board candidates for the ballot to fill four positions. Please be thinking about which thoughtful active members you want to represent you in 2020. Nominees can be submitted through September 23, 2019.

Your current Board is submitting two additions and three changes to our By-laws.

**Bylaw Additions.** The first addition is a Non-Discrimination Statement. The second addition is a Conflict of Interest Statement.

**Bylaw Changes.** The first change addresses Qualifications of the Board of Directors. The second change enables the Board of Directors to suspend or expel a member. And the third change enables the Board of Directors to reinstate a member following suspension or expulsion.

The detailed text for these measures will be posted on bulletin boards and Constant Contact. Your Board has worked diligently with multiple members to propose what we consider reasonable and responsible changes to the Bylaws. We ask for your support.

And that's the way it is. I'll see you at the rails.

Your comments and concerns are always appreciated.

Ted Merchant

[EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com](mailto:EdwardBMerchant@gmail.com).



## Election Dates

### September

- 21 Nominations accepted from the floor of General Meeting
- 23 Final deadline for nomination names to be sent to Secretary

### October

- 23 Deadline for nominee photos and completed questionnaires to Peter Fuad or Diana Manchester to run in Booster

### November

- 7 Ballots mailed
- 23 General Meeting—All ballots must be received before meeting begins to be counted.

**Results Announced!**



## Fall Meet Success

*(Continued from page 1)*

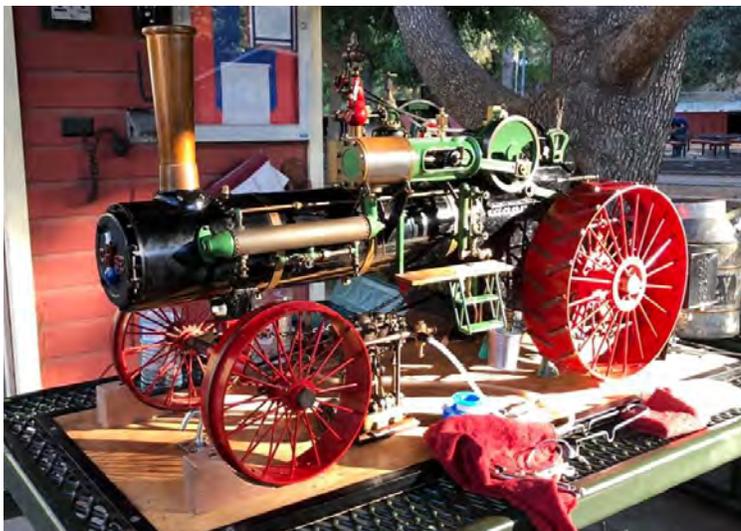
manage the schedule of events, which included a grand President's Auction on Saturday with lots of equipment going to new homes. We had a solemn bell-ringing ceremony on Saturday night to honor our fellow members who are gone and very much missed. Movie night was held on both nights, which was a fun activity.

Martha Figueroa and Jeanne Olson helped run the Club souvenir stand, which offered plenty of LALSRM-themed merchandise to visitors. Finally, myself and others helped ensure visitors had the best possible experience on the railroad, among other duties. And thanks so much to James Cammarata and the Station crew who made sure our Sunday guests got train rides.

I would like to give a huge thank you to all who helped on this Meet.

---

Clockwise from top: Top - Larry Fisher's 3/4" scale LMS Royal Scot; Ted Merchant auctioning off equipment at the President's Auction; and Coles 2" scale Case traction engine owned by Roger Williams. *(Photos by Alex O'Donnell)*





## UP #4014 Big Boy Excursions October 12 & 13

**A**fter 60 years of retirement and four years of restoration, the Union Pacific Big Boy #4014 will return to Southern California on October 12-13, 2019 to lead a special passenger excursion train, using Union Pacific's Heritage passenger car fleet. Proceeds will benefit RailGiants Train Museum and Railway & Locomotive Historical Society.

October 12: roundtrip from West Colton to Barstow

October 13: roundtrip from Barstow to West Colton

### History of the Big Boy

Donated by Union Pacific Railroad in December 1961, engine

#4014 was the most famous locomotive in RailGiants Train Museum's impressive display of engines in Pomona, CA. Big Boy locomotives were built to haul freight over the Wasatch Mountains between Ogden, Utah, and Cheyenne, Wyoming. They were the only locomotives to use a 4-8-8-4 wheel arrangement and are articulated because of their great length. They provided invaluable service during WWII, transporting troops and military equipment all over the country. Originally a working fleet of 25, the last Big Boy retired in 1959.

More info about Big Boys at: <https://www.up.com/heritage/steam/4014/>

## Nominations for Board of Directors

*(Continued from page 1)*

questionnaire will help the voting membership make an informed decision about who would be best suited to serve on the Board of Directors.

This year, all candidate questionnaire responses will be published in the October Booster.

Please take your time and provide thoughtful answers to the questions. The questionnaires are due back to Diana or Peter by October 23, 2019.

## Bell Ringing Ceremony



President Ted Merchant leads the bell ringing ceremony at the Fall Meet honoring deceased members Saturday evening..

# Our Press Release About Ghost Train

*The Museum issued the following press release in answer to inquiries regarding the Ghost Train this year. Please also see special note to members on the right.*

Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum will not be running our Halloween Ghost Train this year.

We thank our loyal members and fans from the bottom of our hearts for your enthusiasm and participation over the years. Ghost Train has been a very enjoyable and worthwhile community outreach.

However, running an event as large as Ghost Train requires substantial capabilities including time, effort, money and member-volunteers. Our resources unfortunately are limited, and we are committed to improving our facility. We anticipate having future outreach events, and we look forward to inviting members and the public.

Meanwhile, please come by and visit us on Sundays for train rides. On the third Sunday of every month you can tour our Stationary Steam Plant and Gauge One Railroad, as well as Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn, the Disney Railroad's Combine Car and Ollie Johnson's model depot.

Stay informed on: [facebook.com/LALSRM](https://facebook.com/LALSRM) and our new website: [lalsrm.org](http://lalsrm.org).

► Roderick Fritz hauling public pulling the public into the station on July 17, 2019  
(Zak Holman photo)

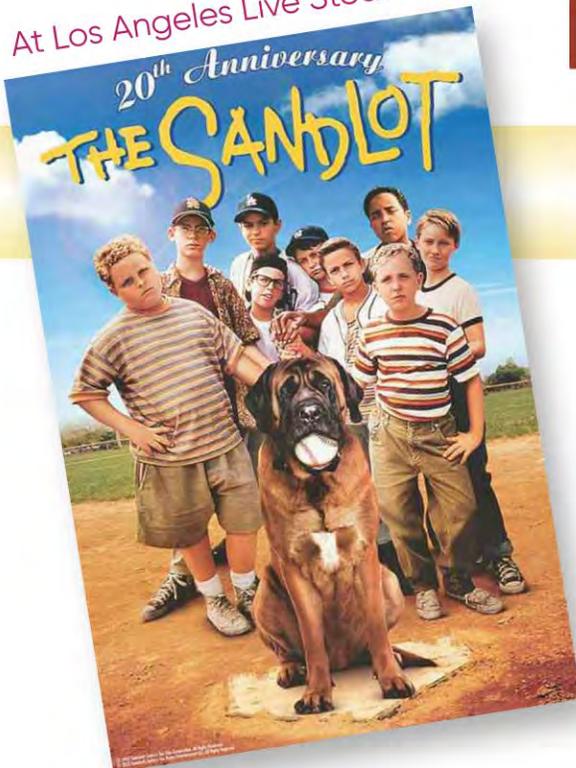
## Special Note to Members

Dear Members, if you are interfacing with the public regarding Ghost Train, either in person or in writing, please do not offer your own opinions or interpretations as to why we are not holding the event this year. Please refer people to our LALSRM Facebook page or our new website: [lalsrm.org](http://lalsrm.org) for more details.



# September Movie Night

At Los Angeles Live Steamers



## Potluck & Night Run

### Saturday, September 28

- Dinner at 6 pm
- Movie at Dusk
- Free Popcorn
- Bring your family & friends

**Plan to run your train!**  
**Let's have fun!**

Don't forget to bring chairs & sweatshirts.

# Who's been Working on the Railroad

Jeremy Steinert, General Superintendent

Alex O'Donnell	Lisa Lipton
Andrew LaGaly	Les Kovacs
Bear Mustoe	Mark Vreeken
Bill Schirmer	Mel Bresee
Bob Crone	Michael Mahan
Charles Rhoades	Miles Kristman
Dave Holman	Nick Suncin
David Clark	Nick Guzman
Darrell Payne	Ray Burden
Diana Manchester	Roderick Fritz
Don Kallgren	Ross Harper
Doug Young	Ruth Payne
Frances Barnes	Ryan Hechinger
Michael Murphy	Scott Hoagland
Glen Manchester	Steve Sauber
Jack Streit	Steve Rodstein
Jeremy Steinert	Stevo Brock
Jim Baker	Ted Merchant
Jim DeBiasio	Tim LaGaly
John DePhillip Jr.	Tom Lang
Joseph Clow	Wayne Crabb
Larry Tighe	Zak Holman

## SUNDAY EXTRA BOARD

August 2019

### August Ridership

August 4	728	August 18	767
August 11	589	August 25	501

**August 2019 — 2,585**  
**Total YTD 2019 — 20,907**  
**Total YTD 2018 — 21,144**

### Souvenirs and Tickets

Kathy Crabb, Martha Figueroa, Jeanne Olson, Greg Olson, Carolyn Hoagland

### Station Masters

Robert Guzman, Gail Woodward, Wayne Crabb, Don Donaldson, Martha Figueroa, Tom Crue, Ron Nelson, Bill Walker

### Engineers and Conductors

Bill Walker	Mark Vreeken
Darrell Payne	Mel Bresee
Francis Barnes	Peter Fuad
Gordon Oldham	Roderick Fritz
Grace Mattson	Ron Nelson
Gregg Olson	Ryan Hechinger
Greg Pschaida	Sean Donaldson
Hugo Budd	Scott Hoagland
Jack Streit	Steve Sauber
Jeanne Olson	Tim Silver
Jeremy Steinhart	Tom Harwood
Joseph Clow	Wayne Crabb

### Safety Coordinators

Jim Cammarata, Michael Murphy, Wayne Crabb, Collin Westphal

## Member Schedule

*Election dates on page 3*

### September

- 21 General Meeting; Board Nominations
- 22 Public rides
- 28 Pot Luck/Night Run/Movie Night 6 pm
- 29 Public rides

### October

- 6, 13 Public rides
- 7 BOD Meeting 7 pm
- 19 Workday/General Meeting; Halloween Pot Luck/Night Run/Movie Night 6 pm
- 20 Public Rides; Disney Barn Open/Steam Plant and Gauge 1 operating
- 27 Public rides

### November

- 9 Operations Meet (Bill Walker)
- 16 Steam Only Run (Harrison Hitchcock)



### Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum

In Griffith Park  
 Mailing Address—PO Box 2156,  
 Toluca Lake, CA 91610  
 Phone (323) 661-8958  
 Website: LALSRM.org

#### 2019 Officers and Directors

<b>President</b>	Ted Merchant
<b>Vice President</b>	Bill Schirmer
<b>Secretary</b>	Diana Manchester
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tim LaGaly

#### Directors

Wayne Crabb	Diana Manchester
Les Kovacs	Ted Merchant
Tim LaGaly	Andrew LaGaly
Bill Schirmer	Doug Young



The *Engine Booster* is the monthly publication of the Los Angeles Live Steamers Railroad Museum, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Editor Peter Fuad  
 Associate Editors:  
 Diana Manchester  
 Alex O'Donnell  
 Christie Edinger  
 Drew LaGaly



#### Saturday, October 19

Halloween Potluck/Movie Night Run



#### Saturday, December 14

Holiday Banquet  
 Viva Rancho Cantina  
 900 W. Riverside Drive, Burbank



## 2019 Fall Meet

Counterclockwise from top: Jake Dierking runs Alex O'Donnell's 1" scale LE 4-4-2 Atlantic; 6 (R); Dave Holman's LE 4-6-2 Pacific (L); Wyatt Chin's 1" scale steeple cab passing Michael Mahan's modified RRSC Lil' Gasser (*Alex O'Donnell photos*); and Martha Figueroa and Jeanne Olson sell dinners and other items (*Diana Manchester photo*)

