



## 22 Going on 23!

May of 2022 will mark the end of the 22nd year of existence of the Marshall County RR Historical Society. Articles of Incorporation were signed on the 17th day of May, 2000 by Ann Walter, Kenneth Winkenwader and Gene Lott. On December 17, 2001 MCRHS acquired approximately 12 miles of track, etc. and about 160 acres of land from the Union Pacific Railroad. This summer will be the 20th year of giving rides on the Central Branch Railroad.

## New Operating Model

Because it is becoming increasingly difficult and time consuming to schedule crew members for rides, a different scheduling procedure will be used this year. We plan to offer rides on the 2nd and 4th weekends of each month. Sandy Harding has agreed to be the contact person for rides this year. She can be contacted at 785-562-8803 or [sharding1948@gmail.com](mailto:sharding1948@gmail.com).

## Election of Officers

The board held election of officers on December 5, 2021. Ann Walter is the new president, replacing Randy Rundle who passed away in February of 2021, Charles Weickert is Vice-President, and Dave Crawford is Secretary/Treasurer. Other board members are Gene Harding, Gary Holbert, and Jeffrey Richter. Although she has retired from the First Commerce Bank, Georgena Lindquist has agreed to stay on to be our bookkeeper and help with treasurer duties.

## Donations

MCRHS was recently awarded a publicity grant in the amount of \$100 from the Marshall County Development Corporation. In December 2021, we received a \$1000 donation from the Guise Weber Foundation. A big thank you to both of these organizations.

## Special Rail Ride

On March 5, Lewis Ableidinger from North Dakota and a friend, Joel Jensen took a ride from Blue Rapids east across the river bridge and back. They are working on an article for the National Railway Historical Society looking at railroads in Kansas and their history. Lewis had stumbled upon our RR last fall and wanted to include it in the article. Gene and Sandy Harding were kind enough to give the two of them a motorcar ride. Ann Walter did some history at the depot and caboose in Waterville.

## Whistle Stop History Ride

Plans are a work in progress, but Sunday, June 19, has been selected as the date for this year's history ride. Covid prevented us from doing such a ride in 2020 and 2021. This is Father's Day but our hope is that many families will choose this as a way to celebrate the day. The ride will begin at 2pm and additional information will be made available at a later date.

## Volunteers Needed

We can always use more volunteer help. Two of our greatest needs are helping with the trimming of vegetation along the rails and crew members for rides. Our crews usually consist of a driver, a flagger and a historian. Our motorcars are a 4 speed manual transmission, which is sort of a "blast from the past" to drive. One can be trained for any one of these positions. A unique need is a volunteer to make fliers for special events such as the Whistle Stop History Ride referenced above. If you are interested and know a board member, let them know. Otherwise the best way to contact us is via email at [centralbranchrailroad@gmail.com](mailto:centralbranchrailroad@gmail.com).

## 2021 FY Income and Expense Summary

**Total Income from all sources: \$27,746.86**

Top Five Income Sources:

- Lease Payments: \$11,697.38
  - We lease 3.0 acres in Waterville to Farmers Cooperative
  - We lease 2.5 acres in Blue Rapids to Farmers Cooperative
  - We lease property in Blue Rapids to Marysville Ready Mix
- Ride Revenue: \$4,611.25
- Donations: \$3,997.56
- New Memberships: \$1,390
- Return on GMCF Investments: \$758.08

**Total Expenses: \$33,745.88**

Top Five Expenses:

- Maintenance: \$11,431.63
  - Including \$9188.54 for crossing repairs
- Insurance: \$10,840
- Property Tax: \$3529.36
  - This includes the 2nd half for 2020 and the full 2021 property tax
- Merchandise (T-shirts & Sweatshirts): \$795.57
- Weed Spray: \$642.43

Note: Although we were in the red by \$5,999.02 for FY 2021, we were in the black by \$7,434.71 in FY 2020. This is largely due to the timing of large donations in 2020 and the expense of crossing repairs in 2021.

### Ride Options and Suggested Donations

ROUNDTrip DESTINATION	ADULTS	CHILDREN	TIME
Waterville to Somewhere	\$10	(6-11)\$7	40 min.
Waterville to Blue Rapids	\$10	(6-11)\$7	40 min.
Blue Rapids to Blue River Trestle	\$10	(6-11)\$7	40 min.
Waterville to Blue River Trestle	\$15	(6-11)\$12	120 min.
Rail Rides to the Blue River Trestle cross the Big Blue River			
(No charge for Children 5 and under)			