

OREGON ELECTRIC RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBER ORIENTATION PACKET



February 2024

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WELCOME!

Thank you for joining the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society (OERHS). The information is offered to help members understand what the OERHS does and how to become better involved.

What is the OERHS?

The Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society (OERHS) was founded in 1957 to preserve and operate vintage street railway equipment. The OERHS is an Oregon Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation. The IRS recognizes it as a Not-For-Profit Public Benefit Corporation under Section 501(c)3.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society, Inc. (OERHS) is to preserve the regional heritage of electric railway transportation as a living resource to

benefit the present and future generations.

To fulfill this mission, the OERHS will promote:

- The study of electric railways, their physical equipment, properties, and operation, devoting special attention to the electric railways of western Oregon;
- The procurement and preservation of historic electric railway equipment, materials, property, and
- The display, interpretation, and operation of surviving historic equipment, materials, and properties.

Goals

- To present exhibits, tours, educational programs, and publications that broaden understanding and appreciation of Electric Railways' rich heritage and its relevance to modern life. Major themes to be presented include:
 - The history of street railway and electric railway corporations, operations, physical infrastructure, and documentary and graphic legacy.
 - The technology of electric railroading including locomotives, railcars and other equipment.
 - Railroad work and working conditions.
 - The impact of railroads on social, political, cultural, economic and environmental history.
 - To work with the Antique Powerland Museum Association (APMA) and other groups whose valued guidance and support enhance the mission and goals of the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society.

What does the OERHS do?

Museum & Willamette Shore Trolley

At present, the primary activities of the OERHS are the operation of the Oregon Electric Railway Museum at Powerland Heritage Park in Brooks, Oregon, and the Willamette Shore Trolley in Lake Oswego, Oregon.



Oregon Electric Railway Museum (OERM)

The OERM is a growing museum comprising a Car Barn, Interpretive Center, Maintenance shop, Powerhouse, about one mile of mainline track & overhead, 2500 feet of secondary/storage tracks, and multiple storage areas. Construction was accomplished primarily through volunteer efforts, donations, and grants from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Autzen Foundation. With Phase One nearing completion, the Board is now identifying the next major capital project(s) to achieve. Some of these are

already underway, such as rebuilding the yard tracks and erecting the former Gresham freight shelter to add much-needed storage of maintenance equipment. Others are in the final planning stages. Examples include a second car barn to store the collection out of the weather, finishing the track loop around Powerland to improve operations for small and large events, and the pending donation of a TriMet MAX Type 1 LRVA list of the capital projects will be contained within the pending OERM Museum Plan.

Willamette Shore Trolley (WST)

The Willamette Shore Trolley is a six-mile former Southern Pacific Railroad electric interurban line between Portland and Lake Oswego along the Willamette River. The goal of the WST is to preserve the corridor for future public transit and to allow the OERHS to operate it as a tourist operation in the interim. The WST offers the opportunity to increase awareness of the OERHS and provide a limited source of revenue to help build the OERM. The Society pioneered the operation in 1987 and in 1995 was awarded the contract for regular operations, charters, and special event excursions. In 2013, a new passenger service agreement was signed, and the first of two of the "Vintage Trolleys" (a private operation from Lloyd Center to Downtown Portland) were leased for the operation. The agreement was renewed in 2023 and the



Society works closely with the City of Lake Oswego and the "Consortium" of local governments and agencies that own the line. One of the cars is undergoing a conversion to battery electric propulsion, eliminating the need to tow a generator. That project should be completed in 2024.

How is the OERHS funded?

The OERHS receives funding through the following sources: memberships, fares, donations, grants, and sponsorships.

The majority of the revenue at the OERM is from fares at Powerland events such as Steam Up, the Pacific Northwest Truck Show, and our Powerland Halloween event.



At the WST, regular rides, charters, and events such as the Fireworks Trolley, Tinseltown Trolley, and the Christmas Ships provide much of the revenue.



Previous major sponsors of the Society include the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Autzen Foundation. More recently, grants have come from Marion Cultural Development Corporation, Travel Oregon, Oregon Heritage Commission, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

How are the funds used?

The OERM has the most extensive infrastructure of any Partner Museum at APMA. In addition to the collection, there are multiple existing buildings (with more in the future), roads/parking areas,



landscaping, tracks, overhead power, and storage areas. All of these require maintenance and upkeep. There are also leases, utilities, and insurance. The OERHS is working to restore the collection and continue the museum's construction. Capital expenses occur as each museum component is constructed or railway equipment is restored. A copy of the current budget is available upon request.

What is the Organizational Structure of the OERHS?

The OERHS is governed by an elected Board, officers, and appointed positions who follow the approved bylaws. Where the Bylaws are silent on an issue, Robert's Rules of Order and any applicable State and Federal requirements will be used.

Bylaws: The bylaws are the administrative operating rules of the OERHS. A copy of the bylaws is available upon request.

OERHS Policies: Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, Collection Deaccession

Board: There are Nine Board positions, each with three-year terms of office. The positions are staggered so that three of the positions come up for election each year. The Board Chair is elected by the Board each year. Members are encouraged to attend the Board meetings.

Officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary

Board Appointed Positions: Includes Museum Director, WST Manager, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and other positions as needed.

Committees: The President establishes standing committees and special committees to address the needs of the OERHS. These committees perform their mission and provide recommendations to the Board for approval. Though every OERHS committee must have a member of the Board as one of the

participants, the committee can appoint its committee chair (unless otherwise directed by the Board). The participating Board member is responsible for keeping the Board updated on the committee's progress, and the committee chair is responsible for presenting the committee's report to the Board. Examples include:

- Standing Committees – These are for specific, ongoing needs. An example is the Membership Committee. These continue until the Board determines they are no longer needed.
- Special Committees – These are for specific, limited-duration needs. Examples include elections and Annual meetings/banquet committees. These expire at the next Annual meeting unless appointed for a shorter period.
- Non-OERHS Committees – These outside committees have elements that affect the OERHS' interests. Society officers and board members may be appointed by the president or board chair to represent the Society on such committees. The OERHS representative is responsible for attending and participating in the committee and keeping the Board updated on the committee's activities/findings. If needed, the OERHS representative can negotiate on the Society's behalf but does not have binding authority to make decisions or sign agreements (unless otherwise approved by the Board). Examples include the APMA Board of Governors, the APMA Planning Committee, and the APMA Holiday Sparkles Event Committee.

Elections: Elections are held at the Annual Meeting each year. The positions elected each year are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three positions on the Board of Directors. Should a position become vacant during the year, the Board may appoint a member to fill in before the next annual meeting. Each issue of the newsletter lists the current Officers and Board of the OERHS, their term of office, and contact information.

Annual Meeting: Held in November or December of each year, the annual meeting is an opportunity for members to come together to hear what has been accomplished and what is pending, to vote on elected positions, and to perform any other business that needs to be approved by the Membership. The meeting often includes a banquet along with traction-related presentations.



How do I hear about what is happening?

In addition to the Annual Meeting, the OERHS uses the following methods to help keep the members informed:



Newsletter: The quarterly is the Society's chief source of communication to its members on OERHS activities. Members are encouraged to contact the Editor with information and stories for the newsletter. Copies can be found online at <http://oerhs.org/transfer/>. For more timely news, a *Monthly Pass* newsletter is sent via email by the Secretary to all members.

Website: The OERHS website provides members and interested individuals with information on the OERHS and its activities. The Society is moving the website to a URL that is easier to remember: <http://oregonrolley.com>.

Facebook: The Museum and the Willamette Shore Trolley maintain Facebook Pages to interact with the public, which are also valuable for members.

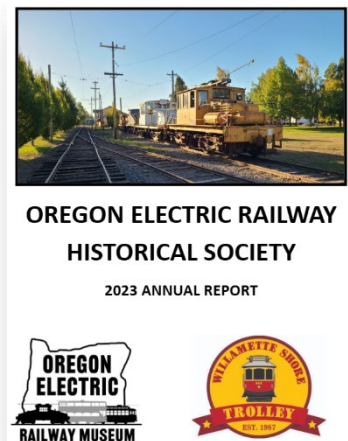
- The Museum's Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/OregonElectricRailwayMuseum>
- The Willamette Shore Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/WillametteShoreTrolley>

Is there more information on the museum's future?

The following documents provide more information on the future of the OERHS, Oregon Electric Railway Museum, and Antique Powerland. These are available upon request.

OERHS Annual Report: An annual report of the year's activities and financial position is presented to the Membership at the Annual Meeting and is available upon request.

OERM Museum Plan: The OERHS Board has begun creating a Museum Plan to enable us to strategically work towards our vision and goals and guide the museum's growth and operations. Once completed, a draft will be presented to the Membership for feedback. A final version will then be adopted and available upon request.



APMA Museum Plan: In 2010, the Antique Powerland Museum Association (which operates Powerland Heritage Park) adopted a Museum Plan to help meet its vision and goals and guide its activities. A copy of this plan is available from APMA upon request.

How do I get involved?

Our most important asset is our volunteers! We are a growing museum and have a wide range of activities to work on. Without you, we cannot meet our mission. Even if you can only volunteer a small amount, it helps enormously. The OERHS is always seeking additional volunteers to share their time and expertise on a variety of tasks and projects. These include, but are not limited to:



- Car Operation & Conductors
- Gift Shop and Ticket Sales
- Tour Guide/Docent
- Event Planning
- Archives
- Displays
- Advertising & Marketing

- Car Restoration & Maintenance
- Mowing/Landscaping
- Track & Overhead Maintenance
- Grant Writing
- & More!



Training is available for members wanting to get involved with these tasks. Check the newsletter and website for a list of activities and contacts to volunteer or learn more.

Who do I contact for more information?

For questions on information in this packet, please contact any of the Officers, the Board, the Museum Director, or any of the appointed positions. Contact information can be found in the newsletter. The Secretary, which is currently Mark Kavanagh, can route you to who you need to get you to: mark@oerhs.org or oerhs503@gmail.com

2024 OERHS Board of Trustees

Officers

(Elected by Membership, 1 year term)

President	Gene Fabryka	Vice President:	Richard Thompson
Treasurer	John Ballentine	Secretary	Mark Kavanagh
Chairman:	John Nagy	Museum Director	(Vacant)

(Appointed by the Board, 1 year term)

Trustees

(Elected by the Membership, 3-year term)

Joe Tracy	David Harold	Gene Fabryka
Mark Kavanagh	Richard Thompson	John Nagy
Susan Jones	Jan Zweerts	John Ballentine