



# Wattrain

The World Alliance of  
Tourist Trams & Trains

April 2018 Newsletter

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“Wattrain goals: help, foresee, react, invent, define and be a factor of balance on a worldwide scale”

## US: Advancing the Cause of Museums on Capitol Hill



Museums Advocacy Day, Texas Delegation poses outside Sen. John Cornyn's office in the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.. Left to Right: Howard Taylor, Dreanna Belden, Kathy Shannon, Ruth Ann Rugg, John Klingeman, Jim Hodgson, Bob LaPrelle, Rodney Mayberry, Guy C. Vanderpool.

Did you know that museums support 726,000 jobs and directly employ 372,000 people in the U.S.? That's more than double that of the professional sports industry! And, did you know that 97% of people polled believe that museums are educational assets for their communities, and 96% want Federal funding for museums to be maintained or increased? Based on studies from the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), these are strong messages of advocacy for museums and their continued role in our communities.

President & CEO Bob LaPrelle joined forces with other professionals to take the museum message to Congress for AAM's annual Museums Advocacy Day. Now in its 10th year, Advocacy Day advances the cause for museums to receive federal assistance in caring for their collections and ensuring their accessibility to everyone.

The two-day event consisted of a day of orientations and seminars, followed by a day of actual meetings with members of Congress and their staff. This year's message focused on four important topics that effect the health and wellbeing of museums across the country: 1) Reauthorization and appropriation of funds for the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS), and in particular \$38.6 million in FY 2019 for the Office of Museum Services (OMS); 2) Continued funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA); 3) Continued funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH); 4) A universal deduction for charitable organizations (This issue is of major importance as the new tax rules are implemented, as it effects all non-profit organizations).

IMLS is of particular importance to emerging museums, including ours, as it makes available important programs to assist growth & development. Through a competitive application process, the Museum of the American Railroad received funding for the OMS Collections Assessment for Preservation Program (CAP) back in 2008. The final report was of great use to the Museum and backed up its 2006 Strategic Plan which led to the move to Frisco.

Bob LaPrelle was part of the Texas delegation that traveled to the offices of Senators and Representatives to enlist their support for continued funding of these important federal programs. LaPrelle represented AAM and HeritageRail Alliance, an affiliate of AAM consisting of over 200 member railroad museums and tourist lines throughout North America. The delegation was well received and was made up of board members from the Texas Association of Museums (TAM) and museum leaders from around Texas, including the Amon Carter Museum, the Petroleum Museum, Fort Worth Aviation Museum, and San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts.

On March 21, Congress showed overwhelming support for continuing IMLS, NEA, and NEH by including funding for these programs in the 2018 omnibus spending bill. A record number of democrats and republicans stood up for IMLS's Office of Museum Services by signing a letter urging continued funding. "It is gratifying to see such a strong display of bipartisan support, and now is a great time to take a moment and thank your Legislators who signed this letter," said AAM CEO, Laura Lott. With 2018 funding assured, it's on to 2019!

**“Wattrain goals: help, foresee, react, invent, define and be a factor of balance on a worldwide scale”**

### India: India to become 3rd largest tourism economy in 10 years. (<http://menafn.com>)

India, currently the seventh largest tourism economy, will move ahead four places and become the third largest in the next 10 years.

A report by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has said the sector's total contribution to the economy will more than double from Rs. 15L crore in 2017 to Rs. 32L crore in 2028. It will also add 1cr new jobs. From 4.03cr jobs in 2016 to 5.23cr in 2028

What has worked for India?

Indian Railways plan to convert commercially unviable corridors into heritage lines to revive tourism. <https://www.indiatoday.in/mail-today/story/indian-railways-plan-to-convert-commercially-unviable-corridors-into-heritage-lines-to-revive-tourism-1207823-2018-04-09>

### India: World heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway train gets AC coaches.

Soon, the World heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway will get fully air-conditioned coaches! According to Chief Public Relations Officer of Northeast Frontier Railway, Pranav Jyoti Sharma, an amount of Rs 23 lakh has been spent on each railway coach. Also maintenance of the DHR coaches will be done at

Gloria Guevara, WTTC president, credited the growth to "some extremely proactive steps" by the government.

Continue reading at: <http://menafn.com/1096645822/India-to-become-3rd-largest-tourism-economy-in-10-years>.

### Mumbai's CST railway station to soon be converted into a rail museum. (<http://www.business-standard.com/>)

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, which was elevated in 2004 to the status of a Unesco World Heritage Site, is set to be converted into one of the first museum-cum-railway stations in India portraying the 130-year-old

Tindharia Workshop, which completed 100 years last year. ([Financial Express.com](http://www.financialexpress.com))

### India: Railway Board Chairman Assures To Retain Heritage Character Of DHR

**GUWAHATI:** The Railway Board Chairman, Ashwini Lohani has assured of preservation of the heritage character while restoring Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) that is included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

### history of one of the busiest stations of the world.

**India:** The Southern Railway will operate "Heritage Steam Voyage" summer special train services in the Nilgiri Mountain Railways (NMR) section between Mettupalayam and Coonoor from March 31 to June 24 on Saturdays and Sundays. ([India Today](http://www.indiatoday.in))

**India:** A 113-year-old heritage steam engine has become the centre of attraction for tourists in Shimla as they have been booking a ride to enjoy the curvy Shimla-Kalka Heritage track. Continue reading at: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/113-yr-old-steam-engine-attracts-tourists-on-shimla-kalka-track/story-ZzcoBE2mgGVplolkPAHFco.html>

(<http://www.theshillongtimes.com> .. 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018)

**India:** Railways 'Treasure Hunt' triggered seniority debate: Fairy Queen's rival for oldest steam loco tag. Fairy Queen's rival for oldest steam loco tag — its Express twin retired early. Fairy Queen carries the number "EIR (East Indian Railway) 22" while Express is tagged "EIR 21", indicating that it may be technically older. ([Indian Express.com](http://www.indianexpress.com))



Runner collection)

### **USA:Marin rail buffs bid to reclaim historic train.**

Pacific Lumber Co. No. 9 locomotive has been on display since 1953 in front of the Scotia Museum in the Humboldt County town of Scotia.

**“No. 9” when just finished at the Heisler Locomotive Works, Erie, PA, March 1921. (Ted Wurm / Fred**

### **Wales: Journey to the rooftop of Wales....Snowdon Mountain Railway.**

Since 1896 visitors have been travelling to Llanberis, to experience the unique rail journey to the Summit of the highest mountain in Wales and England. Claim this mountain peak, the highest in Wales, as a lifetime’s achievement. Come with us and see exactly why Snowdon Mountain Railway has been described as one of the most unique and wonderful railway journeys in the world.

This winter the railway has embarked on a 10-year £2.6m project to rip up the old Victorian track and replace it with a modern design which does not rely on the safety girder- an additional safety feature running the length of the track to lock trains in. ([www.snowdonrailway.co.uk](http://www.snowdonrailway.co.uk))

### **Ireland: Full steam ahead for former Belfast to Dublin train after £400k restoration.([www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk](http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk))**

An historic steam engine which last operated in the early 1960s in Northern Ireland is back on track after a five-year restoration by the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (RPSI) at Whitehead.

Former Great Northern Railway (Ireland) express engine No. 131, which dates from 1901 and was built for the Belfast-Dublin line, was officially launched back into service on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2018..

The £400,000 project received funding support from

Generating Rural Opportunities within South Antrim (GROW), through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme, which is part-funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Union.

Lord Faulkner of Worcester, president of the Heritage Railway Association (HRA), hailed the restoration as “a stunning achievement”.

He said: “I congratulate RPSI on this major success story which is being applauded by enthusiasts from across Britain and Ireland. An incalculable number of hours has been put into this restoration and all concerned should be immensely proud of the result.”

The 55-ton No. 131 was withdrawn from traffic in Dublin in 1963 but happily saved from the scrapman’s torch.



(Courtesy: Belfast Telegraph)



**MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN RAILROAD**  
Cultural History & Technology Programming for North Texas

### *e-news & events*



1. Work is progressing nicely on reconstruction of the Sanders Layout at the Frisco Discovery Center. One of the great challenges was recreating the magnificent hand-painted mural that served as a backdrop to the layout in the Sanders' home. Created by muralist James Spurlock, the vivid scenes of the American Southwest were literally painted onto the walls, which made relocation of the original artwork virtually impossible..

2. February's Focus Magazine, a Frisco ISD publication, featured the Museum's 7th grade field trip program following a visit by Vandeventer Middle School. The article touts the Museum's instructional content that features Texas history subjects with a strong emphasis on the development of the state as a result of post-Civil War railroad construction.

One of the key elements of the Museum's 7th grade programming is Frisco's story as a prime example of the railroad's influence on North Texas.



The Museum of the American Railroad announced today (3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018) the name of a new permanent exhibit that will open in June 2018 at the Discovery Center in Frisco. "TrainTopia" will feature a year-round \$1 million model train exhibit which was donated to the Museum by Steve & Jane Sanders and their daughters. The exhibit is being funded with a \$300,000 donation from Amanda and Brint Ryan of Dallas.

"TrainTopia is already generating a huge amount of excitement. We are getting calls from all over the U.S. asking when the new exhibit will open," said Bob LaPrelle, CEO of the Museum of the American Railroad. "After considering dozens of possible names, TrainTopia jumped out at us. The name just fits, and visitors will see why when they first walk in the door. You have to see it to believe it! The exhibit adds a whole new dimension to the Museum's visitor experience here in Frisco."

More at: <http://www.museumoftheamericanrailroad.org/>

### **US: 8 scenic and historical train rides in Wisconsin (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel)**

**East Troy Electric Railroad, East Troy. (7 miles)** Run entirely by volunteers — has 25 electric railroad cars, trolleys and locomotives, some dating to the 1920s, and includes two of the five remaining Milwaukee streetcars. [easttroyrr.org](http://easttroyrr.org).

**Tiffany Bottoms Train, Durand (8.5 miles)** Passes through the Tiffany Wildlife Area (13,000 acres) a birdwatchers paradise. [chippewavalleymotorcarassociation.ellawisc.com](http://chippewavalleymotorcarassociation.ellawisc.com)

**Mid-Continent Railway Museum, North Freedom.** Visitors to the Mid-Continent Railway Museum can enjoy a 7-mile train ride through the Baraboo Hills. [midcontinent.org](http://midcontinent.org).

**Lumberjack Steam Train, Laona.** A 1916 locomotive takes visitors from Laona to Camp 5, an old logging camp turned museum in Forest County. [camp5museum.org](http://camp5museum.org).

**National Railroad Museum, Green Bay.** The museum offers 25-minute rides around the complex aboard vintage, full-size cars..and there's a Big Boy here too! [nationalrrmuseum.org](http://nationalrrmuseum.org).

**Osceola & St. Croix Valley Railway, Osceola.** Take a 90 minutes ride through the scenic St. Croix River Valley aboard an Empire Builder .. [transportationmuseum.org](http://transportationmuseum.org).

**Riverside & Great Northern Railroad, Wisconsin Dells.** A 15-inch gauge light railroad on a three-mile track along the beautiful Dells of the Wisconsin River. [dellstrain.com](http://dellstrain.com).

**Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad, Spooner.** Through the Northwoods and along the Namekagon River. [spoonertrainride.com](http://spoonertrainride.com).

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## South Africa: Travel and stay in style on South Africa's legendary Blue Train



A very exciting feature for Stars of Sandstone 2019 will be the arrival of a special charter of The Blue Train at the event. The Blue Train will be departing Pretoria on 3rd April at 09h00 and will be spending 2 nights at Sandstone Estates, departing on 5th April at 18h00 for arrival in Pretoria on the 6th April at 10h00. Early booking is essential and you could be one of only 52 passengers to share in the experience.

This is one of the great luxury trains of the world and has the advantage of providing its passengers with a comfortable environment, excellent food, and of course the ability to hop on and off a 2ft Narrow Gauge Railway which would be operating on an adjacent siding. Many years ago when we planned our railway, we specifically created a siding next to the Main Line Vailima siding on the National Railway Network Branch line between Bethlehem and Bloemfontein. That is where this special train will be staged. The siding is being extended by Transnet, for which we thank them, because this type of excursion would not have been on the agenda of passenger trains running between the two centres in the past. In fact, there was not even a railway station at Vailima, it was purely a commercial siding where wheat and maize FZ trucks were dropped off and collected on a regular basis. Indeed, in Sandstone's early days, we used to load up to 1,000t of grain a day on the siding.

Most luxury trains are enjoyed for what they are, namely a trip on a train, but ours has the added advantage of spending 2 days at a world class event where there are any number of additional things to do. When the passengers have had enough, they can go back to the Blue Train, relax, sit in the lounge and watch the trains go by. They can on a whim jump off and join a passenger train about to embark for the mountains or returning to the main complex which will be a hive of activity.

There are only 52 berths on this train, so we do commend it to everyone who is considering coming down to Stars of Sandstone 2019 but who may be concerned about the lack of 5-star accommodation opportunities in the area.

We believe it will be very attractive to our international visitors, particularly those who have time constraints.

Due to the various configurations that exist, we will quote every one of our guests upon request.

Please e-mail Dave Richardson on E: [daver@sandstone.co.za](mailto:daver@sandstone.co.za)

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## **Argentina: PORTA'S INSTITUTION THREATENED WITH CLOSE-DOWN BY ARGENTINEAN GOVERNMENT.**

Shaun McMahon reports from Argentina that the INTI, the principle science research establishment that Livio Dante Porta was instrumental in setting up, is under threat of complete or partial closure by the Argentine government which has revealed hitherto secret plans to replace it, at least in part, by a private company to concentrate on exports of foodstuffs to the European Union.

260 jobs at INTI have so far been declared redundant which triggered a lock-out by government authorities to the remaining staff at the end of January. Staff were allowed back in to work in mid-February though some industrial action continued on until early March. More recently, the entire establishment has been surrounded by the police and military forces and is being monitored by a private security company charged with preventing staff and management voicing their views on the government's plans and on the implications of corruption surrounding them.

This is of special relevance to ASTT since one of INTI's high profile programmes is modern steam development, continuing the work begun by Porta.

INTI recently celebrated 60 years since its establishment in December 1957. Porta was one of the first experts to be engaged by INTI, working there from September 1960 when he left the Rio Turbio Railway until his retirement in 1982. During that time he set up and headed the Thermodynamics Department where he wrote many of his technical papers on steam traction. Shaun McMahon has been working on steam development at INTI since 2009.

### **Ferroclub Argentino 12E 4-6-2 restoration.( Ferroclub Argentino, via Gabriel Asenjo)**

This 3 cylinder Pacific, number 3925 "General Rondeau", built in 1926 by Vulcan Foundry for the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway (Ferrocarril del Sud) has been under restoration for the last 15 years. Everything started when the club decided to restore one of the best examples of express passenger engines in the country, with the latest technology available when built in the UK, similar to what was happening on the LNER with Gresley. She belonged to a class of 21 engines that handled all the most important trains on this Argentine railway.

Work on this engine, designed by P.A. Saccaggio (of world fame with dieselization in the 1930's) started with the removal of the boiler -using the old Cowans Sheldon 45 ton steam crane-; complete retubing and repairs to firebox and smokebox; all new or refurbished boiler fittings; exhaust and admission pipes (this loco was modified by the end of the 1930's with double exhaust transversal chimney and blinkers); plus all the undercarriage of the loco and tender, including springs, con and coupling rods w/bushings, new piston rings, all the missing cyl drains and mechanisms, multi-stage seals, brake cylinders and rigging.

Tender is going through the same process, reshaping of wheel profile, steel work including all new breakwater plates, braking and springing, buffers, etc.

All parts are being polished to "exhibition standards", same as lining and painting.

Well, why are we doing all this? Basically cause our Institution has the old saying "that we have to show our children what our grand-dads did", -in reality our children are doing it!- and as we did already with a couple of old diesels, and wooden coaches, we will need them for future exhibitions and mainline running on special occasions.

We have no certain date as to when are we going to finish, pressure test of boiler has been successfully performed, cab is being fitted before the steam test, and lagging and outer sheets are next.

We will keep you updated with the latest news on this job,

Ferroclub Argentino, Centro de Preservación Remedios de Escalada.

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### **Japan: Railway fans bid JR Sanko Line in western Japan farewell as red ink forces closure.**

The JR Sanko Line connecting the Shimane Prefecture city of Gotsu with the city of Miyoshi in Hiroshima Prefecture marked its final day of operations on March 31, with the entire line closing down due to a lack of passengers.

The Sanko Line runs 108.1 kilometers. The closure of the line marks the first time since the split and privatization of Japanese National Railways in 1987 for an entire line measuring over 100 kilometers to be shut down on Japan's main island of Honshu.

Part of the Sanko Line opened in 1930, but the line was not fully completed until 1975. However, due to depopulation along the train route and an increase in car ownership, the average number of passengers transported per kilometer declined, dropping to just 58 by fiscal 2015 -- less than one-fifth of the number in fiscal 1992 -- and the line was in the red.

"The appeal (of the train) is that it runs slowly," said one passenger.

**Full story at: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20180331/p2a/00m/0na/012000c>**

**Editor: A suitable tourist line??**

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## KORAIL Tourism Development Team welcomed at UIC headquarters in Paris on 5 April 2018

UIC was very pleased to welcome the KORAIL Tourism Development Team, which is one of the interrelated companies of KORAIL in South Korea, at its headquarters in Paris on 5 April.

KORAIL Tourism Development is a culture and leisure company which consists of five business units including Tour and Leisure business, MICE (Meeting, Incentive tour, Convention, Exhibition), Theme Park business, Crew (SM) business, etc.

The delegation was led by Mr Han Junhee, Director of the train crew, Head of KTX-high speed trains and many kinds of tourist train onboard services as well in South Korea.

The delegation from KORAIL Tourism Development was welcomed at UIC by the Passenger Department. This meeting provided an opportunity for a comprehensive overview of projects and cooperation activities currently coordinated by UIC.

Due to their activity, they were especially interested in the TopRail (Tourist Opportunities for Railways) project activity, whose new events (1st TopRail Forum and the book "Around the world in 80 Tourist Trains") were explained by its UIC project manager Vanessa Perez.

KORAIL is one of TopRail's members and has collaborated over the last two years in the creation of the TopRail website ([www.toprail.org](http://www.toprail.org)) and the TopRail Guidelines on Sustainable Tourism last year. The KORAIL CEO was also one of the initial signatories of the UIC TopRail Charter on Sustainable Rail Tourism.



**In connection with the UIC/TopRail Forum, if members could rush me there iconic railway journey list (in their home country) then the sooner UIC can formulate the best selection of potential photographic views of same for the "Around The World in 80 Railways" book. Hurry!!**

**And finally, Courtney Wilson thought this might be an interesting item to share!!**

I though our WATTRAIN comrades might be interested in this (unique?) college minor degree in Railway Heritage Tourism. I know of no other program-especially one that has credentials attached to it. <https://www.dewv.edu/center-railway-tourism>

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