



## Prez' Notes...

Here we are at the beginning of a new year with several new board members with new ideas and thoughts of what we can do to increase the number of visitors to our museum. I for one would like to see the esthetic appearance of the grounds improved. The outward appearance of any place the public goes has a lot to do with whether they enjoy themselves and if they return. It also has a lot to do with the way the people that work there perform their jobs, whether paid or volunteer.

I would like to see our members become more active in the overall program. Not just running trains on weekends, or mechanical and restoration work, or working in the Beanery, but lets take time to train our members to become real docents of the museum.

We need to train them as museum guides, to be familiar with all the rolling stock, to know an F-7 from a GP-9, an ALCo from an EMD and so forth. They need to know what the history of our museum is, what the different artifacts in the display room are, the history of certain pieces of rolling stock like the 805-A, the 921-D, the 105 business car, and all the rest of our equipment.

I would also like to see all volunteers and docents dress in the proper attire for the part they are playing, as you see in almost every railroad museum in the country. So many times wives and children just sit or walk around because they have nothing to do. Lets make it interesting and just maybe they will enjoy their time at the

museum also.

I propose we set up a training roster for those of who would like to volunteer and have them sign as to what they would like to do. The material and training guides are available and I for one would be willing to take the time to train those in their field of choice, and I am sure there are more who are qualified to run a training class.

There is such a great potential here right under our noses that we should take advantage of it and put our museum on top of the places to go in northern California.

Let me hear from those of you that would like to see something like this started at the Portola Railroad Museum. My mailing address is P. O. Box 1063, Portola CA 96122. The e-mail address is [skipe@plsn.com](mailto:skipe@plsn.com). See you at the museum.

— *Skip Englert*

### —TRAIN SHEET NOTES—

Train Sheet No. 90, March/April, 1998, was produced early—March and will be mailed by Mar15. Shasta Rail Group staff members Nicholas Shippen, Richard F. Daniels and Adam Clegg helped with production.

### —MEMBERSHIP NOTES—

As the database is being continually updated, your help in correcting any anomalies in addressing has been most appreciated! It reduces our cost when we have an accurate mailing database to work with. Please direct all payments for new/renewal memberships, address changes, etc. to:

FRRS P. O. BOX 1411, Chico, California 95927-1411. Phone is (530)892-9609, 24-Hour FAX (530)894-7359, or we can be contacted via e-mail at: [wphlight@aol.com](mailto:wphlight@aol.com). Thanks!

— *Bill Shippen*