



April 2025

<https://patrolley.org/ptm-operations/>

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**2026
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TROLLEY CALENDAR
Pennsylvania Trolley Museum**



Pennsylvania Trolley Museum

Washington, Pennsylvania

The 2026 Western Pennsylvania Trolley Calendar is almost ready for the printer. Watch your email for availability.



To reach a staff member, call (724) 228-9256
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2025 is on a roll!

By Scott R. Becker, Executive Director & CEO

As we roll into spring, over 3 months have already gone by in our operating year. February was particularly busy thanks to Free Kid February sponsored by Alex Paris Contracting. We had over 3,300 visitors and 2,723 were walk-in visitors compared to 515 walk-in visitors in 2024! Spring cleaning is underway with our annual "Garbage Trolley" running this past Monday. A crew manned Red Arrow Car 14 to clean the right of way of trash - thanks to Bram Bailey for organizing this! Our Way & Track volunteers have been installing new ties in County Home Siding and significant progress has been made in our new wood shop at the former visitor area at the West Campus.

Saturday April 5th was our Member's Day and Volunteer Banquet. I led two "Behind the Scenes" tours in the afternoon of approximately 15 people each to explore the Artifact Preservation Building and Reliance. There were lots of good questions and interest was generated in volunteering in the Archives. New Operator Training was also held in addition to regular operations.

That evening we held our Annual Volunteer Banquet where we thank our volunteers for all their work in 2024 and present some awards. This year's banquet welcomed over 130 people and was organized by Morgan Meer and Kristen Fredriksen. Special thanks go to Angelo's Restaurant in Washington for providing a delicious Italian meal! They are great supporters of the Museum, and I encourage you to try their food. (angelosrestaurant.com)

The evening's program featured a remembrance of Art Ellis, Sr., PTM #5, who passed away at 105 years old last November. Bruce Wells and Artie Ellis presented photos about Art's long life and Art's children Artie and Cindy, his granddaughters Sarah & Laura, Bill Fronczek and I gave some entertaining stories about Art. A table of Art's memorabilia was also on display through the evening as well as the Play Trolley and "Art Steps" that Art had made possible over the years.



Artie Ellis shows Ned Williams a special memorial display about his Dad Art Ellis, Sr.
Lindsay O'Brien photo



Bruce Wells presents slides remembering Art Ellis, Sr. on April 5, 2025
Jeanine DeBor photo

The awards presented were:

- President's Award by Mike Kendlick to Gary Malaskovitz
- Executive Director's Award by Scott Becker to Ralph Ciccone
- Special Events Award by Jeanine DeBor to Ed Bonner
- Behind the Scenes Award by Mike Buchta to Tim Gump
- Interdepartmental Award by Kristen Fredriksen to George Gula
- Rookie Awards by Morgan Meer to Don and Linda Grimm
- Next Generation Award by Louie Mariano to Dom Frizzi
- Operator of the Year Award by Kevin Zebley to Brett Freithaler



Louie Mariano presents the Next Generation Award to Dom Frizzi.
Lindsay O'Brien photo



Kristen Fredriksen presents the Interdepartmental Award to George Gula.
Lindsay O'Brien photo



Kevin Zebley presents Brett Freithaler with the Operator of the Year Award.
Lindsay O'Brien photo



Jeanine DeBor presents the Special Events Award to Ed Bonner.
Lindsay O'Brien photo

Morgan Meer then presented a number of President's Volunteer Service Awards in the Bronze, Silver and Gold Categories.

Bronze Awards

These volunteers completed more than 100 hours of service last year. The recipients are:

Beau Miller
Steven Goehring
LeAnn Zebley
Jonathan Muse
Bram Bailey
Howard Harris
Michael Saftner
Ray Janosko
Alexander Bruchac
Edward Koehler

Mike Ziviello
Dave George
Dane Goodfellow
Jack Samuels
Doug Zebley
Kathryn Black
Bob Jordan
David Lopez
Michael Cassata

Ralph Ciccone
Don Bailey
Joe Brandtner
Rob Willison
Duane Novotny
Bill Kiehl
Richard Dulaney
Wayne Cass
Timothy Sheffield
Wayne Wicks



Bronze Level recipients President's Volunteer Service Awards. Lindsay O'Brien photo

Silver Awards

These volunteers completed more than 250 hours of service last year, or more than 175 hours if they are under 25 years old. The recipients are:

Laura Wells
Sean Kenney
Donnie McDaniels
Don Grimm
Mark Smutny
Larissa Gula
Brett Freithaler
Bruce Nordmark

Jim Selario
George Zrust
Barrie Baker
Dave Moffett
Tom Pawlesh
Bill Fronczek
Richard Rhoton



Silver Level recipients President's Volunteer Service Awards. Lindsay O'Brien photo

Gold Awards

These volunteers completed more than 100 hours of service last year.
These volunteers completed more than 500 hours of service last year,
or more than 250 hours if they are under 25 years old,
although some of our young volunteers did complete 500+ hours.

The recipients are:

Dan Bower
Ed Morascyzk
Katie Imler
Louie Mariano
Dom Bodek
Stephen Semerod
Devin Mooney
Art Rizzino
Nancy Young
Dave Woods
Wayne Young



Gary Malaskovitz
Fred Cooley
Jeff King
Roy Scandrol
Dom Frizzi
Tim Gump
Bruce Wells
Dennis Bockus
George Gula
Bernie Orient
Larry Lovejoy

Lastly, we are working to add permanent standby trolley power capability. We have relied on our 95-year-old Armco B73 diesel locomotive and have an opportunity to make improvements using our existing diesel generator that serves the East Campus by adding a AC/DC rectifier in the Trolley Display Building as well as other improvements. We have already raised \$65,000 of the \$80,000 budget and GBU Life will match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000! Please consider helping us make these important improvements!

Thanks to all of you that help the Museum grow and go!



Things are not always what they seem to be at first glance. This is PTC Route 6 in Glenside, a suburb of Philadelphia located in Montgomery County. Route 6 connected Olney Terminal with Willow Grove Park, the summer home of the Sousa Band for many years. The image was exposed June 3 1907.

Look again, there are only two sets of tracks here.

Image source:
Free Library of Philadelphia



PENNSYLVANIA TROLLEY MUSEUM

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PENNSYLVANIA TROLLEY MUSEUM STANDBY TROLLEY POWER PROJECT

Pennsylvania Trolley Museum (PTM) operates a two-mile trolley line which gives a four-mile round trip. On certain occasions PTM has had as many as seven cars out on the line at the same time. On average, PTM has two to three cars on the line concurrently.

In the past few years, we have lost power for two days of major special events and have had numerous near misses. Now that the new Welcome and Education Center (W&EC) is open the risk is further increased due to added days that we are open and increased visitor count which increases the cars on the line. A power failure strands the cars, the visitors, and the crew wherever they are located when the electricity goes out. We do have a diesel tow locomotive that can retrieve the cars one at a time, but this time-consuming and requires quite a bit of manpower. Trolley rides are then discontinued for as long as we have a power outage.

We are currently raising funds for our own standby power, which requires installing two small rectifiers at our East & West Campuses. These rectifiers will be automatic and will have power to the trolley in about 45 seconds after a utility failure and there will be sufficient capacity to keep us open and operate up to three cars in normal service.

We are nearing the completion of fundraising for this project but still need to raise \$15,000.00.

Completion of this project will allow the Museum's trolley operation to be protected from unforeseen power outages.

Thank you for your support!



Trolleys running along the Museum's track.

Volunteer Resources

Morgan Meer - Coordinator of Volunteers and Public Programs

On Saturday, March 29, both new and experienced volunteers got together for Museum Guide Training. We reviewed the responsibilities of the role and practiced talking to others about our trolleys.

As part of guide training, volunteers are invited to explore resources to learn more about trolley and Museum history. I wanted to remind you all about these resources, which can be accessed on [our website's training page](#) (password: Westpenn832).

Here are some highlights that all of our volunteers, guides or not, are welcome to check out:

[Visitor Services Training Manual:](#)

learn about safety procedures, tips for talking with visitors, and the visitor-related responsibilities of guides and operators

[Example Interpretation:](#)

read an example tour of the TDB

[TDB Programs:](#)

a guide for explaining trolleys signals and how trolleys are powered through interactive demonstrations



Brian Shatzer presents on Philadelphia & West Chester 07 to Chas Pollack, Jennfier DuBetz, Alvin Ferree, and Bruce Brickner.
Morgan Meer photo