



The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc. (MARP) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1973 to improve passenger train service, travel conditions for passengers, and to work for the preservation of historic rail stations.

Monthly meetings are held at locations around the state. Check the website for dates and venues. The public is invited to attend.

### MARP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2022-2024

John Guidinger	Chair
Carolyn Ulstad	Vice-Chair
Jeanie Merckel	Treasurer
Open	Secretary
Clark Charnetski	Elected Member
Shuler Harmon, Jr.	Elected Member
Robert Lovell	Elected Member
Chuck Merckel	Elected Member
Robert Patterson	Elected Member
Todd Schultz	Elected Member
Thaddeus Wojcik, Jr.	Elected Member
Open	Elected Member

Webmaster, Larry Sobczak  
ON TRACK Editor & Communications, Kay Chase

### 2022 MEETINGS

**20 January** – Member Meeting  
Legacy of the Pullman Porters  
Speaker, Robert West

**03 March** – Member Meeting  
Jim Mathews, Rail Passengers Assoc.

**09 June** – Member Meeting  
Paul Trap, Early Michigan Railroading

**15 September** – Member Meeting  
Derrick James, Amtrak

**22 October - 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**  
Keynote Speaker Tim Hoeffner  
In-Person meeting at the  
Lost Rail Museum in Grass Lake

Visit [www.marp.org](http://www.marp.org)  
Email [marprail@yahoo.com](mailto:marprail@yahoo.com)

## Bits and Pieces

We're sending a shortened version of the newsletter this month in order to bring you time-sensitive items and some breaking news. We'll be back soon with extended coverage of the Annual Meeting.

### Virginians for High Speed Rail "Virtual" Town Hall on Tuesday

Please note that the third in VHSR's virtual Town Hall 2022 series will take place on Tuesday, November 1, at 1:00 pm ET. See page two for how to RSVP. By registering, you will have access to the recording if you are unable to attend "virtually" on Tuesday.

### A Brief Note on MARP's Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 22, was a gorgeous, sun-filled autumn day enjoyed by some three dozen MARP members and friends who enjoyed the drive to the **Lost Railway Museum** in Grass Lake for MARP's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Election of officers for the 2022-2024 was a major agenda item and members were presented with a stellar slate assembled by the nominating committee of Larry Krieg and Clark Charnetski. The executive committee will have three new members: Robert Lovell, Thaddeus "Ted" Wojcik, Jr., and Shuler Harmon, Jr. Continuing in their present positions are John Guidinger (Chair), Jeanie Merckel (Treasurer), Chuck Merckel, Clark Charnetski, Robert Patterson, and Todd Schultz. Carolyn Ulstad assumes the Vice-Chair position.

Robert Lovell resides in Okemos, recently upped his membership level to Life Member, and is also a strong bicycle advocate. Ted Wojcik, who resides in Ewart, made the decision recently to participate more actively in the organization in which he has been a member for many years. In contrast, Shuler Harmon of Battle Creek joined MARP just a year ago and jumped right in as a volunteer keeping the Battle Creek station supplied with copies of *The Michigan Passenger* and other MARP materials. We'll have profiles of Robert, Ted and Shuler in upcoming issues of ON TRACK.

### Rail Passengers Association Requests Inquiry into *Wolverine* Incident

The Rail Passengers Association has asked the Federal Railroad Administration to ensure a speedy safety debriefing and review of the 19-hour service disruption of Amtrak's October 7<sup>th</sup> westbound *Wolverine* train #351.

(**WOLVERINE** continues on page 2)

## MARP 2023 Meeting Schedule

The newly elected Executive Committee will meet soon to begin planning the 2023 meeting schedule, which will likely be a mix of in-person and "virtual" meetings. The Executive Committee meets via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month. If you have ideas to contribute, questions, or concerns please send them to us at [marprail@yahoo.com](mailto:marprail@yahoo.com). If you would like to sit in on a meeting, please contact MARP Chair John Guidinger at [jhguidinger1@yahoo.com](mailto:jhguidinger1@yahoo.com).

For nonpartisan election information, before you vote, visit the website

**vote411.org**

**VOTE 411**

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

### Have You Voted Yet?

Many of you have already earned your **I VOTED** sticker. If not, time is getting short to make sure your voice is heard. To avoid possible mail delays, absentee ballots should be delivered to clerks' offices or put in a ballot drop box. Not sure if you are registered or where your polling place is (many have changed)? Go online to the [Michigan Voter Information Center](#) for answers to those and other questions. For comprehensive non-partisan information about the candidates on your ballot, go to [VOTE411.org](#), a project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

Remember, it will be the willingness of our state lawmakers to "put some skin in the game" that will determine whether Michigan passenger trains will benefit from the funding available from the bipartisan infrastructure bill. If your candidate is supportive of trains, you can help him or her by volunteering with their get out the vote campaign. You can make a difference!

#### (**WOLVERINE** continued)

RPA has asked also that Association staff be permitted to serve as observers and to share the results of that review with the public. RPA President, Jim Mathews, met with Amtrak and reported that, while they clearly recognize the seriousness of what occurred, there are "many open questions remaining about how the incident was handled, how alternate arrangements were considered, and how poorly passengers understood what was happening." For these reasons, RPA intends to fulfill its obligation in representing members and the traveling public by pursuing the inquiry. You may read RPA's [full statement here](#).

Meanwhile, Amtrak President, Roger Harris, has sent a letter of apology to the affected passengers, sending a credit of \$100 on future Amtrak travel, this in addition to any refunds or credits already issued, as well as offering reimbursement for expenses incurred for transportation to their final destinations.

Virginians For  
High Speed Rail

2022 VIRTUAL  
TRANSPORTATION  
TOWN HALL SERIES

Transforming (Intercity & Commuter) Rail  
Across Virginia

Featuring

**DJ Stadtler**

Executive Director of the  
VA Passenger Rail Authority



**Rich Dalton**

CEO of Virginia Railway Express



November 1, 2022 at 1:00 pm | RSVP: [VHSR.com/Townhall2022\(3\)](#)

**November 1, 2022 at 1:00 pm Eastern Time**  
RSVP here: [VHSR.com/Townhall2022\(3\)](#)

### **Wolverine Trains 350 and 355 Returned to Service October 25**

Two Michigan Line services—*Wolverine* trains #350 and #355, temporarily suspended on 29 August due to continuing pandemic-related issues—are once again operating daily between Pontiac and Chicago.

Service resumed on Tuesday, 25 October, one day later than originally planned. It seems that extra equipment was needed elsewhere on the weekend of October 22-24 to accommodate the hundreds of passengers who climb aboard the *Missouri River Runner* about this time every fall to attend *Oktoberfest* in Hermann MO. By way of explaining the shifting around of equipment, an Amtrak employee (who shall remain unnamed) was heard to say something to the effect of "sharing the pain" around the Midwest.

During the suspension, *Blue Water* trains #364 and #365 operated on their normal schedules, and also served *Wolverine* stations between Kalamazoo and Chicago.



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