



FRIENDS OF THE RAILROAD MUSEUM

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A non-profit corporation of Pennsylvania

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**RAILROAD MUSEUM NAMES LANCASTER COUNTY MAN
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**

The Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania board of directors is proud to announce the selection of Ralph Lockard, Strasburg, as volunteer of the year for 2008.

Lockard began volunteering at the Railroad Museum in 1998, and has lent considerable time and efforts to the visitor services and the curatorial departments, among others. Since he has been volunteering at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, the number of hours that Lockard has given annually has invariably placed him in the top three to the top ten individual contributors from among the approximately 150 Museum volunteers. He usually volunteers at the Railroad Museum two to three times a week.

Lockard will be recognized at the annual Associates Forum on Saturday, May 10 at Pennsbury Manor—together with fellow volunteers of the year from other Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission sites and museums—and during the annual Members Day activities at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania on Saturday, September 27.

In visitor services, Lockard often opens the Railroad Museum's outdoor restoration yard and greets visitors exploring this area. One of his biggest tasks in the archives has been working on the cataloging of the Vulcan Iron Works photograph and drawing collection—18,000 items. His fellow volunteers and staff say that Lockard always maintains a positive attitude and is a pleasure to work alongside.

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Lockard was born and raised in Columbia, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Strasburg. He is retired from Sechan Electronics, Lancaster, where he worked as a supervisor in the test department. Lockard and his wife of 51 years, Betty—also a Railroad Museum volunteer—have three children and four grandchildren. He fondly recalls watching trains with his dad and says that his first ambition in life, since age six, was to be a locomotive engineer. Although he never actually fulfilled that role, Lockard explains that volunteering at the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania has been, and is, like part of that fantasy come true.

Lockard notes that he loves the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, throughly appreciates and enjoys everyone associated with the Museum and is proud to have been honored as volunteer of the year for 2008.

The 117 historic locomotives and vintage railroad cars in the collection of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania chronicle the heritage of a society on the move. From classic woodburners and mammoth steam locomotives to sleek, electric-powered and diesel engines, visitors discover the colorful and dynamic history and technology of the industry that built our nation. Visitors can take the throttle on a simulated run in a real freight locomotive cab, sit in an engineer's seat, climb aboard a caboose, explore an early 20th century replica passenger station, inspect a 62-ton locomotive from underneath, view restoration activities in real time via closed circuit TV, enjoy interactive, educational exhibits and programs and browse the Whistle Stop Shop museum store. A number of historic engines and railroad cars are open for inspection.

The official railroad museum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the world-class Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the non profit Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2008.

For more information, call (717)687-8628 or visit www.rrmuseumpa.org.