

President's Pin*- Greg Elems*

Hello fellow WP aficionados,
 We have before us a difficult season. COVID-19 has effectively shut down the country. As you probably have seen on our webpage we are closed 'til further notice. We will have to decide what we are going to do once the shelter in place order is lifted. I suspect even at that time large gatherings will still be restricted. Social distancing will probably be a strongly suggested action 'til next year.

The board has decided that our volunteers and visitors must be kept safe. Regretfully that means the gates will remain closed to the public for a while and only limited volunteers allowed to come and work at the museum. This isn't to stop volunteers from coming, we just need to adjust how we do things. Should you want to volunteer and want to stay in the Edenwold, make reservations as usual. If you do come, we ask you to be as self-sufficient as possible. Face masks and gloves are on short supply here as well as the rest of the county. We do have some cleaning supplies but replacing them is problematic at this time. So, please, bring your own masks and gloves as well as some cleaning supplies to help clean the sleeper and lounge car.

Work to be done will need to be planned out so we can keep the social distancing. It won't stop grounds clean up, for fire safety. Track work will continue as we can get people to help. Locomotive maintenance will be scheduled through David Elems. Under his direction, we hope to keep everyone safe and still get the work completed.

Roger Stabler has a core steam crew lined up for work on the WP 165.

The Run A Locomotive program will be on hold for a while. Keeping our RAL engineers well and

the public safe is foremost on my mind. Unfortunately, that will cut into our earnings that we depend on for keeping the museum open. If we do offer RALs this year it probably will be later and greatly depend on several things, engineer availability being just one of the items. The State of California's current recommendations on group size and group gatherings will have to be considered. Availability of cleaning materials and supplies to properly take care of the cab environment, before, during and after the RAL will factor into how we run the program.

Crew training, the in-person portion, has been postponed. I know hours are needed on a yearly basis for keeping your crew status, but if you aren't able to get any, we are working on a plan for that. Having said that, we will still need to make some equipment moves as we cycle things through the shop. At this time, I'd like to say we can try to put out some advance warning on these moves. With fewer days of work taking place a mid-week move or two will take place and we'll have to decide at that time if the moves will be done or postponed until the weekend. We are not trying to keep anyone from the operations, just making the best use of our time.

Another concern I have is our at-risk volunteers. Nearly everyone fits that parameter, fact of life, I'm afraid. Also this brings up the fact that we need to work on attracting more young members to come and volunteer. If you have ideas in that area, I'd love to hear them.

As always, I want to thank our volunteers and members for your support.

Keep an eye on the web page, as our webmaster will keep our status updated as we fine-tune our actions.

Greg Elems
 President FRRS