



NEWSLETTER

May 2014

Ballot Enclosed for Annual FEBT Election

The terms of five members of the Friends of the East Broad Top Board of Directors expire this year, and the nominating committee has put forward six candidates to run for election. They are Peter Gentieu, Robert L. Harris, Jr., Nancy E. Jacqmin, David A. Phillips, R. Lee Rainey, and Wade N. Woodcock.

Jacqmin, Phillips, Rainey, and Woodcock are currently members of the board, and Rainey is the FEBT president. One current board member is not seeking reelection.

Statements by the candidates appear on the following page. A ballot is also attached. Please detach the ballot page, complete it, fold it in thirds or put it in an envelope, and mail it before the end of May to Vagel Keller, FEBT Election Judge, P.O. Box 5130, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206-0130.

Sand House Stabilization Underway in Rockhill

The tower of the sand house in the East Broad Top's Rockhill Furnace yard has been leaning for decades, but recently its tilt has become more pronounced. The Boiler Rats, having completed most of their work on the boiler house and the blacksmith's shop, proposed to make stabilizing the sand house their next project, and work began in March.

Jim Bacon, the crew chief, says the problem with the tower was easy enough to diagnose: The upper portion, containing the sand bin, is heavily timbered and braced, while the lower section is the structural equivalent of a folding card table, with light timbers and little or no cross bracing. It's the lower portion that is twisting out of square—and perhaps the only surprise is that it has taken so long to do so.

The project's goal is to straighten the lower portion and brace it well enough that it will stay straight. "I doubt we can make it strong enough to actually use the tower bin in the future," Bacon says. "That would require a complete rebuilding, as the structural members of the lower section are in rough shape."

"With Courtney Brown's help," he adds, "we figured out what went on in the EBT's sand house."

"Sand was delivered through the door, and piled on the floor. It was then hand-shoveled into the 'dryer'—a common steam-heat radiator mounted in a rectangular chute. How long they left it in there, we don't know; but I'm guessing a few hours, maybe less. Then the sand was drained out the bottom, and again hand-shoveled across the room into a dirt strainer, where it fell through the screen into a 'pressure pot.' When the pot was full—containing maybe 800 to 1,000 pounds—the screen was moved, the lid closed, and a compressed-air line blew the sand up into the overhead bin through a two-inch pipe.

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“This bin forms the upper section of the sand house, the ‘tower.’ It is made with a sloped bottom, to feed into the lower loading pipe or out the drain. The bin had two outlet pipes, one up high for filling a locomotive's sand dome, and another, lower pipe for loading sand into boxcars. These would be hauled to Saltillo or Robertsedale for use in refilling the locomotives there. Both of these loading pipes had air jets to help move the sand.”

Board of Directors Candidates' Statements

Peter Gentieu: I will have a lot to learn about how the board operates. I have been impressed with the knowledge and dedication of board members that I have met on shop tours and at the Rockhill Furnace work sessions and would be honored to join them. The existence of the East Broad Top Railroad 58 years after it ceased regular operations is amazing. I want to ensure that the opportunity to save this rare gem of industrial and railroading history does not slip from our grasp.

Robert L. Harris, Jr.: I've been a regular attendee at the Rockhill Furnace work sessions. I've gathered the photos and information required for FEBT brochures. I've attended many train shows as a representative of FEBT. If elected to the Board of Directors, I will continue my efforts at outreach. I intend to apply my management skills to the betterment of the FEBT.

Nancy E. Jacqmin: My first contribution to the FEBT was handling the mailing of reminder membership postcards. I became Restoration Fund Treasurer when the “five year” campaign was launched in 2001. I recall buying my first roll of stamps for the campaign hours after the terrorist attacks on 9/11—it seemed appropriate that the stamps had a flag design. As with many FEBT projects, the length of service has far outlived the original time commitment. I have served on the board for the past four years.

I strongly support the continuation of the current fundraising campaign using the art of Peter Lerro. I would like to see us use the campaign as a vehicle to send our story to a broader audience. The publicity that the initial campaign garnered in the media, through paid advertisements and editorial coverage, expanded the reach of FEBT and uncovered many supporters of our projects outside the organization. It also provided a vehicle for telling our story, one that has been strengthened through wise use of those funds.

David A. Phillips: In 2003, I joined the FEBT and almost immediately volunteered regularly for restoration work at Rockhill. I have worked on many restoration crews, and currently work on the Combine 14 crew. I implemented and maintain the new Company Store website and support store operations working at reunions and interacting with vendors and customers concerning modeling supplies. I plan to increase member awareness of EBT history by implementing online access to our photograph collection using the infrastructure already built into the Company Store website. I am honored to be nominated to serve you as an FEBT director for a second term.

R. Lee Rainey: I have ridden, hiked, photographed, modeled, and written about the East Broad Top Railroad since first encountering it in 1953. But the greatest thrill of all has been the opportunity in the last dozen years to roll up my sleeves and help save it. As coordinator of the Rockhill restoration efforts on behalf of the FEBT and the railroad, I've organized and led work sessions that to date have contributed over 35,000 volunteer hours to the preservation of the EBT rolling stock and Rockhill facilities. I ask you to reelect me so that I can continue to lead this critical work.

Wade Woodcock: I have been a regular volunteer at both Rockhill and Robertsedale. I am currently serving on the board and have assisted with FEBT company store previously. I would promote a good working relationship with new owners.

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PLEASE
PLACE
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FEBT Directors Election
c/o Vagel Keller, Election Judge
P.O. Box 5130
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206-0130

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FRIENDS OF THE EAST BROAD TOP

c/o Peter A. Clarke
10428 Carlyn Ridge Road
Damascus, Md. 20872 USA

Board of Directors Election Ballot

This is your ballot to elect **five** directors of Friends of the East Broad Top, Inc. These directors will serve two-year terms, until the 2016 election. Incumbent directors running for reelection are indicated by asterisks.

Space is also provided below for voting for up to five write-in candidates. FEBT election policy states that any ballot submitted by a member eligible to vote is valid so long as the total number of candidates marked on the ballot—official and write-in—does not exceed the number of directors to be elected.

Please mark the box next to the names of the candidates of your choice. Then detach this page and either mail it to Vagel Keller in your own envelope or fold it in thirds with Vagel’s address facing outward, tape it closed, put a stamp on it, and mail it that way. **To be counted your ballot must be received by May 31, 2014.**

- Peter Gentieu**
- Robert L. Harris, Jr.**
- Nancy E. Jacqmin ***
- David A. Phillips ***
- R. Lee Rainey ***
- Wade N. Woodcock ***

_____ (Write-in) _____ (Write-in)

_____ (Write-in) _____ (Write-in)

_____ (Write-in)
