

RMLI New Volunteers Meeting

Saturday, February 21 at 1:30 PM

Suffolk County Historical Society, Riverhead

Happy New Year Gentle Reader! The first priority for 2009 is to rebuild our Museum volunteer-base!

Sadly, 2008 marked the passing of our long time Trustee and Volunteer Coordinator, Don Bender. Don's failing health during the season forced him to be away from us for much of the year. In 2009 we need to identify a volunteer to take over the important work Don performed for so many years: coordinating our docents, tour guides, engineers, conductors and gift shop associates at Riverhead. Our staff at the Greenport Museum will continue to be organized by George Summers, our Greenport Volunteer Coordinator.

In 2008 we were forced to close the Riverhead Visitor's Center and Restoration Site on Sundays. Our staff of volunteers was large enough to open the Museum only on Saturdays. I hope, in 2009, to once again staff the Riverhead site both weekend days.

RMLI will host a Volunteers' Informational Meeting on Saturday, February 21 at 1:30 PM (SNOW DATE: Saturday February 28 at 1:30 PM) in the meeting room of the Suffolk County Historical Society, 300 West Main Street, Riverhead. At the meeting we will describe the operation of both Museum sites, Riverhead and Greenport, and illustrate the work a volunteer performs. We hope to sign up and schedule many new volunteers!



DOCENTS man the Museum proper, operating the train layouts and answering the questions of visitors.



TOUR GUIDES give walking tours of our railcar collection in the Yard at Riverhead.



ENGINEERS are instructed and qualified to operate the historic Allen Herschell 16' gauge LIRR World's Fair trainset at Riverhead.



CONDUCTORS see to it that passengers get seated safely on the trainset and then ride the observation car to observe patron safety in the cars.



STATION AGENTS, on busy days we place a volunteer at the “station” to keep the patrons in line and assist the conductor in loading and emptying the trainset.



GIFT SHOP ASSOCIATES stock and present the many items we sell in our Museum Gift Shops. They collect admissions from patrons and sell over the counter, operating the cash register and credit card machine.

We will be accepting new volunteers for Greenport too.

Anyone interested in turning a wrench or working on Museum projects is encouraged to attend the volunteer information meeting to meet our Project Managers and share your interests with them. There is so much to do at the Museums we will appreciate any and all help we can muster.

Please mark your calendars now for Saturday, February 21st (SNOW DATE: Saturday February 28 at 1:30 PM) and plan to attend and help the Railroad Museum of Long Island in 2009. If you have questions or would like to express interest in a particular area, please e-mail me at dfisher@rmlis.us

You are cordially invited!
Don Fisher, President