

Nevada County Depot & Museum

New Board, Officers, Name

The members of the Nevada County State Park Association met Sunday, November 17 to elect a new board of directors. The Association operates the Depot Museum.

Board members elected to a one-year term are Danny Stewart, Paul Boyd, Eddie Daniel, Jon Chadwell, Ronnie Vandiver, and Bill Griffin. Other board members are Michael Jimerson, Howard Taylor, and James Roy Brown, serving in their official capacities as President of the Prescott-Nevada County Chamber of Commerce, Mayor of the City of Prescott, and Nevada County Judge, respectively.

Officers elected by the board are Danny Stewart, President, Paul Boyd, Vice-President, Eddie Daniel, Secretary, and Bill Taylor, Treasurer.

The Nevada County State Park Association was organized in the 1970s to pursue the establishment of the Prairie DeAnn Battlefield as a state park. When it was learned that would not be possible, the goals shifted to the establishment and operation of the Depot Museum. The organization, recognized as a not-for-profit tax-exempt organization under IRS code section 501(c)(3) since 1982, is beginning the process of changing its name to the Nevada County Depot & Museum Association.

Search for Curator Begins

Health problems have necessitated the retirement of Depot Museum curator and co-founder, John Teeter.

The board wants to fill the curator's position soon so that person can work with the volunteers who move the displays back into the building. The curator will assure that modern preservation techniques are practiced with the artifacts and that all holdings are properly cataloged, [and will also be in charge of operations and coordinating the work on the history of the County.](#)

The board is accepting letters of interest or resumes from persons who are interested in the volunteer position at PO Box 592, Prescott.

Renovation and Restoration Complete, Move Back Begins

The \$233,771 renovation and restoration project to the 1912 Missouri-Pacific Depot building at Prescott is complete. The project was funded by a Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) grant of \$164,888 administered by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department. The remainder came from the city's one-cent sales tax designated for community development. The grant application was written by Karen Ward and requires the building is to house a museum.

The outside takes on the looks of the 1940s while the inside is styled for the 1930s, including tall door archways and high ceilings. Other improvements include the installation of wheelchair ramps and access to all rooms, new plumbing, updated electrical systems, central heat and air conditioning, fire and burglar alarm systems, the conversion of the freight storage room into a community meeting room including finishing of the wooden floor, and restoration of some display fixtures. Jon Chadwell coordinated most of the specifications for the project.

The move back in to the Depot building should begin around the first of 2003. A grand opening and the delayed celebration of last year's 25th anniversary of the museum's operation will be planned for that time. Currently, nighttime passers-by will notice the showcase presentation made possible by the extensive lighting.

Essentially, the 1912 Missouri-Pacific Depot building was donated in 1970 to the City of Prescott. In 1992, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program provided a Grant-in-Aid for \$10,000 for repairs and renovation of the building, with that funding coming from the National Parks Service.

More Information

The web site, <http://www.depotmuseum.org/>, has more information about the museum, the renovation and restoration project, and the grant that made the work possible.