

All Aboard!!

Women and Railroading

June Program Idea

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In the era that saw the founding of our Society in Austin, Texas in 1929 with expansion to our State of Illinois in 1935, the passenger train was in its golden age and was the most common means of intercity travel. Just think about it! If our Founders in Austin wanted to travel to Chicago, they would have most likely traveled by train!

Since the 1800's, when railroad routes were first constructed, Illinois has served as a crucial hub in the nation's rail transportation network.

You may be surprised to learn that **women** played an important role in the development and expansion of long distance train travel in the United States.

Today, an organization exists to recognize the contributions, accomplishments and efforts of **women in railroading**: The International Society for the Preservation of Women in Railroading (ISPWR).

As you plan a Chapter program, during **Women's History Month** or any other time of the year, ISPWR will be a valuable resource for information and materials. For example, when you visit the ISPWR web site www.womeninrailroading.com, you can order a traveling exhibit offering a colorful and educational look at the world of **women** railroaders, or purchase scripts for one act historical plays. Personal recollections, bios of famous women, newspaper and magazine articles along with historical and current data are all available.

Other resources in our region include the **Illinois Railway Museum** in Union, Illinois, the **Mid-Continent Railway Museum** in North Freedom, Wisconsin and the **Museum of Transportation** in St Louis, Missouri.

If your Chapter is looking for a service project, be sure to check out any historical railroad offerings in your area. Most railroad related organizations have active volunteer programs.

