



## **Toledo, Lake Erie and Western Railway & Museum, Inc.**

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### **LOCAL RAILROAD VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE TOP STATE WIDE AWARDS**

Waterville, OH; Grand Rapids, OH , Wooster, OH, Napoleon, OH– Two volunteers of the Toledo, Lake Erie and Western Railway & Museum, Inc. (TLE&W), located in Waterville, Ohio received top awards and honors for outstanding service at the Ohio Rail Tourism Association's (ORTA) 2004 Annual Conference. The conference was hosted by TLE&W from April 16, 2004 through April 18, 2004 in Waterville and Grand Rapids, Ohio. TLE&W volunteer Roy Carmony (of Wooster, Ohio) was awarded the ORTA 2003 Outstanding Service Award for his efforts and contributions towards the preservation and operations of the Toledo, Lake Erie and Western Railway. Nathan Vance (of Napoleon, Ohio) was honored as runner-up for this prestigious award.

The ORTA award is presented once each year to a member, employee, or volunteer of an Ohio Rail Tourism Association member organization. Currently, ORTA enjoys over 26 member organizations individually located throughout the state of Ohio.

Roy Carmony received ORTA's Outstanding Service Award for his dedicated volunteer efforts towards the reconstruction and preservation of twelve miles of railroad infra structure currently owned and operated by the Toledo, Lake Erie and Western Railway between Waterville and Grand Rapids, Ohio.. Mr. Carmony dedicated over 820 volunteer hours to various railroad preservation projects during 2003. These hours were in addition to his normal contributions as one of the organizations locomotive engineers. His projects included right-of-way maintenance, track repairs, and equipment repairs and restoration. Mr. Carmony was selected for the award due to these and other gallant efforts toward the continued preservation of the famous TLE&W rail line that was once part of the historic Nickel Plate Railroad.

Nathan Vance (of Napoleon, Ohio) was the runner-up for this ORTA award due to his dedicated volunteer efforts towards the continued preservation of the railroad right-of-way of the TLE&W Railway. Mr. Vance's individual contributions for 2003 include over 270 hours of volunteer labor and leadership efforts towards this effort.

Because of the contributions of Mr. Carmony and Mr. Vance, the continued safe operations of the TLEW railway, it's sustained historical preservation, and its continued visibility as a main rail-tourism attraction in Ohio has been sustained.

ORTA is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization whose purpose is to bring together all Ohio rail tourism operators and excursion sponsors, railroad companies, historical societies, related companies, and assemblies of individuals to promote and promulgate the Ohio rail tourism industry. ORTA's board of directors consists of 4 officers and six trustees. One trustee position is a permanent position appointed by the Ohio Rail Development Commission. Additional information regarding ORTA can be found at [www.ohiorailtourism.org](http://www.ohiorailtourism.org).

The TLE&W is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization who's charter is to maintain and operate, for educational and historical purposes, an excursion railroad on the last remaining twelve miles of track between Grand Rapids and Waterville, Ohio. This rail line was originally part of the Toledo to St. Louis rail line that was built in 1875. Known as the Toledo, St. Louis and Chicago Railway and later part of the famous Nickel Plate Railroad. TLE&W provides passenger excursions between Grand Rapids and Waterville, Ohio on this line between the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of May through the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of November. Additional information regarding the TLE&W can be found at [www.tlew.org](http://www.tlew.org).

Roy Carmony was additionally honored for his achievements at the May 13, 2004 Ohio Rail Development Commission's meeting at Vern Riffe Center in Columbus, Ohio. The ORDC Chairmen Mr. James E. Betts and Executive Director Jim Seney officially presented the ORTA 2003 Outstanding Achievement award to Mr. Carmony.

Pictures of Mr Carmony's award presentation can be obtained by emailing [info@tlew.org](mailto:info@tlew.org).