



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LOCAL RAILROAD RECEIVES TOP STATE WIDE AWARDS

Waterville, OH; Grand Rapids, 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) 2003 annual conference. The conference was held on April 11, 12, and 13, 2003 in Sugarcreek, Ohio. TLE&W volunteer Curtis Borrer was awarded the first-place award and TLE&W volunteer William Linebaugh Jr. was awarded second place honors for outstanding service towards the preservation, operations, and leadership in the Ohio tourism industry.

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 20 member organizations individually located throughout the state of Ohio.

Curtis Borrer (of Sylvania, Ohio) received ORTA's first place award for this dedicated volunteer efforts towards the reconstruction and preservation of ten miles of railroad infrastructure currently owned and operated by the Toledo, Lake Erie and Western Railway between Waterville and Grand Rapids, Ohio. Mr. Borrer dedicated over 1250 volunteer hours to various railroad preservation projects during 2002. These hours were in addition to his normal contributions as the organizations train conductor and electrical officer. Mr. Borrer was selected for the award due to these and other gallant efforts toward the continued preservation of the historic TLE&W rail line that was once part of the historic Nickel Plate Railroad.

William Linebaugh (of Grand Rapids, Ohio) received a second place award from ORTA for his dedicated volunteer efforts towards the leadership and management of the TLE&W railway. In addition to his leadership role, Mr. Linebaugh's individual contributors in 2002 included the preservation and replacement of double-track railroad crossing across St. Rt. 64 in Waterville, Ohio and increased safety of operations through his solicitation for and management of a grant to install new railroad lights and gates at the St. Rt. 295 railroad crossing in Waterville Township, Ohio. Mr. Linebaugh was selected for the award for his many achievements, accomplishments, and leadership contributions toward the continued safe operation of the TLEW railway, its sustained historical preservation, and its continued visibility as a main rail-tourism attraction in Ohio.



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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.

The TLE&W is a 501 (c)3 not-for-profit organization whose charter is to maintain and operate, for educational and historical purposes, the last ten remaining miles of track located 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. TLE&W provides passenger excursions between Grand Rapids and Waterville, Ohio on this line. The railroad opens its 2003 passenger service on May 10, 2003. Additional information regarding the TLE&W can be found at www.tlew.org.

Curttis Borrer and William Linebaugh will be additionally honored for their achievements at the next Ohio Rail Development Commission's meeting in Columbus, Ohio on May 8, 2003. These awards are practically significant and timely as the Ohio Rail Development Commission has recently announced its intent to make the State of Ohio know as 'The Railroad Tourism State'.

