



June 2016

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear NSFVA Members:

Our 2016 Annual Conference July 13 - 16 in Sheridan, Wyoming promises to be a truly fascinating and educational gathering. The good folks in Sheridan have demonstrated an exceptional level of partnership in working with NSFVA to make this a world-class event.

The board will hold an election of officers while in Sheridan. I will not be running for re-election as President. It is my opinion that all future board elections should be open to the entire membership. I am hopeful that future elections will proceed in that manner. This represents a change which is fundamental to achieving one of my long-standing goals of promoting a sense of ownership by our members.

NSFVA has a unique niche focus on specific horse drawn vehicles. As such, I feel that one of our most valuable contributions to our membership is to provide a framework for enhanced networking and information sharing. In that regard, this past year we have distributed the Membership Roster. I am hopeful that future enhancement of the roster will include a listing of vehicles owned by our membership [for those members who choose to do so].

I have recently proposed to the board that we provide members, directors, and nonmembers an opportunity to advertise on our web site. This would require a minimal fee without any preference or special consideration given to anyone. If implemented in this manner, it would be of great value in locating artisans, vehicles, parts, historical resources, etc. and would not in any way be in conflict with our 501 (c) (3) status.

I look forward to another great year and hope to see you in Sheridan.

Sincerely,  
*Gerry Groenewold, President, NSFVA*

### **2016 EVENTS**

Greetings members, we would like to remind you that our 2016 Conference is being held in Sheridan, Wyoming. The dates will be July 13 to July 17. The main theme this year will be Freighting and the many branches that tie to the freighting industry of years ago. Let us mention, we will have numerous displays of these vehicles, along with expert speakers sharing their knowledge about these wooden wheeled

vehicles. We offer also with registration, Rodeo tickets to one of the famous top 50 PRCA Rodeo's along with an Indian Relay Race that is second to none. Your registration includes a very nice barbecue on the lawn of the Brinton Museum, with a well-respected speaker, Paul Fees, a past Director on the Buffalo Bill Museum Complex of Cody, Wyoming and seen on TV explaining our early western history. His talk will be a treat to each of us. The Brinton Museum is allowing, for that event, a free pass to their museum. Sheridan also hosts one of the best horse and horse drawn parades in Wyoming. Sheridan has many more activities and events going on this week, such as an Indian Pow Wow at the famous Sheridan Inn, Don King Museum, Fort Phil Kearny, and the Custer Battle Field. At our conference, we will put forth an effort to provide educational information and strive to show you a very enjoyable time. Please consider filling out a registration form and sending it in, which can be found online at [stagecoachfreightwagon.org](http://stagecoachfreightwagon.org).

*Jeff McManus*

Listed below is local Wyoming hotel/motel information for your use:

**MOTELS/HOTEL/CAMPER PARKS**

**Holiday Inn – (307) 672-8931 (mention block code: NSF)**

**Mill Inn – (307) 672-6401 (“National Register of Historic Places”)**

**Quality Inn – (307) 672-5098**

**Motel 6 – (307) 673-9500**

**Hampton Inn – (877) 424-6423 or (800) 466-8356**

**Peters D RV Park – (307) 673-0597**

**Best Western Sheridan Center – (877) 437-4326 or (307) 674-7421**

**Super 8 – (800) 800-8000 or (307) 672-9725**

**Days Inn - (800) 329-7466 or (307) 672-2888**

**Sheridan Inn – (307) 674-2178 (“Buffalo Bill’s old Inn”)**

**\* Note- Lots of activity in Sheridan, so get reservations early**

**Sheridan Chamber of Commerce – (307) 672-2485 ([www.sheridanwyomingchamber.org](http://www.sheridanwyomingchamber.org))**

In April of this year at Martin Auctioneer’s Spring 2016 Carriage Auction, an Abbot Downing Concord Coach sold for \$95,000. This Coach #476 was built by Abbot Downing Company in 1878 and shipped to California around the horn. The Coach had been restored years ago by one of the United States early concord coach authorities, John and Mildred Frizzell Coach Works. Stagecoaches have been an emblem throughout the history and literature of the West, the ultimate symbol of traveling across the rugged frontier to new land and adventures. John D. and Mildred V. Frizzell owned the Frizzell Coach and Wheel Works, a company that rediscovered the historic stagecoaches and brought them back to life through restoration efforts. The Frizzell’s composed much research on Abbot Downing concord coached during the 60’s and 70’s.

*Doug Hansen*

On April 23, 2016, a grand celebration was enjoyed at the National Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Casper, WY. This day a very special wagon was inducted into this museum as a permanent display to commemorate the thousands of miles it traveled over the historic trails of the west. The Santa Fe, The Oregon, The California, only to name a very few, have all felt the wheels of this wagon at the hands of its Wagon Master, Ben Kern

NSFWA board member Ray Stokes, his daughter and secretary of NSFWA, Kim Manning and grandson and son, Justin Manning, also a NSFWA member, worked feverishly to prepare and serve chuck wagon vittles for over 200 friends and guests of a beloved man. What an honor it was for this three generation trio to be privileged to share Ben's special day. They were also assisted by top hand Jeff McManus, also one of NSFWA's board members

They brought their wagon from Sidney, NE and Justin and Ray set up outside the museum by the model Pony Express Station on the trail center's parking lot. Then the fire pit was dug and the wood placed to begin the first fire and of course the first pot of coffee. Next morning, early, Kim joined her dad and son to help to be ready to serve Cowboy Beef Stew, Cowboy Beans, Sourdough Rolls and Coffee. Lefty and Bunny Olson also came and prepared Peach Cobbler to add a bit of sweet to the end of a hearty meal. They rang the dinner bell right on time. After a word of thanks, the attendees enjoyed piping hot bowls of the fare and sopped up the remains with a tasty roll and scrumptious dessert.

The induction ceremony followed the meal inside the center. Letters from dignitaries not able to attend were delivered by a Pony Express rider and read aloud. Friends gave testimonies of times spent on the trails they had traveled with Ben as the wagon master. These memories were very real and touching. Many eyes had to be wiped of moisture as they witnessed the significance of a parting of ways of the master and his wagon home. He was known on the trails for picking up kids that had come out to view the site of a wagon train and telling them to get in and ride for a ways. Many times the wagon would be loaded with curious young'ins wanting to experience what it would have been like to cross the west in the bed of a wagon or walking along the trail. Ben knew the only way to preserve the trail history was to set it afire in the hearts of the young people.

That is what made this day so special. Many have received their first taste and love for trails. They now have experienced unforgettable memories of the trails traveled as our settlers did. Men like Ben Kern are to be honored and remembered for keeping the history alive.

As a member of National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association, I encourage you to continue to keep the history alive of our early freighting system. These same trails were trudged by heavy laden wagons to supply the frontier of much needed supplies for survival and expansion of the western territories. These trails were also traveled by stagecoaches to bring visitors to new areas to establish homesteads. Let us remember those who made it a life journey to forge the trails that we would follow. These are the trails that have led us to where we are today.

Travel On....

*Kim Manning*



Howdy NSFWA members. Being that there is a focus at our next conference in Wyoming on chuckwagons, it seems fitting that I include an article on an interesting chuckwagon restoration that was in my shop recently. The wagon that underwent restoration was an old Weber/IHC wagon that was on its last legs and was in need of a new body and chuckbox. The body and seat still had remnants of the Weber/IHC logo and included all the original hardware. The guest ranch (Elkhorn Ranch by West Yellowstone) needed the wagon for their excursions while I rebuilt the body using original parts that I had in my bonepiles. The deal was to build a new body/chuckbox and deliver and change out bodies on the ranch when finished. It is always fun rebuilding the bodies of the old wagons, but the exciting part of the project was the chuckbox. It was something they had put together on the ranch many years ago and was built for their need to feed and cater to many people. It was oversized/tall with cubby holes inside to fit their cookware and cutlery. The interesting part was the table. Not only was it large, to fit the size of the box, but it had a double table. I had not seen this before. It worked well and served a great function – to cater to a mass of people (see pictures below). Not something you see every day, but one thing is for sure, you need to be VERY careful extending out the table or have a person or two to help or it may just overtake and eat you!

*Jem Blueher, Anvil Wagon Works*



### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

Vehicles for Sale: *Contact John Sullivan (206) 399-2958*

- Replica Concord Coach, Amish built in 1950 – excellent condition
- 1890 Army Escort Wagon - needs restoration
- 1890's Studebaker Hitch Wagon – wheels good, body needs restoration

As a reminder, we would like to include a listing of vehicles owned and associated interests on the Membership Roster. If you filled out that portion on your membership form, we will use that information. If you didn't include that information but have something you would like to list, please send or e-mail the details to Tom Henrich, 1418 Chardonnay Dr., Richland, WA 99352 or [highhood@yahoo.com](mailto:highhood@yahoo.com).

In future Newsletters we would like to encourage members to share past, current or upcoming information of interest. If you have something to share and include in the Newsletter, please submit a write-up to Tom Henrich.

*Tom Henrich, Director*  
NSFWA