

The Connecticut Electric Railway Association, Inc



Annual Report 2022



The Connecticut Electric Railway Association, Inc.

Corporate Officers

President — Robert Brogle
Vice President — Justin Chasse
Treasurer — Charles Gross
Corporate Secretary — John Perlstein

Board of Directors

Robert Brogle
Lawrence Bryan
Justin Chasse
Sara Garthwait
Daniel Hernandez
Edward Laprade
Christopher Shaw
Bryan Soltis
John Sacerdote
Michael Luzzi
Jon Weiner
John Perlstein
James Borrup
Charles Gross

Department Heads

Executive Director — Gina Maria Alimberti
Safety & Security Officer — Bert Johanson
Volunteer Coordinator — Larry Lunden
Operations Manager — Roger Pierson
Chief Motorman— Michael Luzzi
Asst. Chief Motorman— Dale Maine
Training Manager — Ray Nobile
Track Manager—Camilo Santiago
Signals Communication —Derek Dearborn
Electric Traction Manager — Vacant
Car Shop Technician — Giovanni Rescigno
Restoration Manager — John Pelletier
Buildings Manager — James Borrup
Grounds Manager — Don Nordell
Guest Experience Manager— John Meszaros
Webmaster — Matthew Cosgro
Information Technology Committee Chair — Hugh Brower/Andy Shefrin
Development Committee Chair — Michael Speciale

2022 Annual Report Editor- Gina Maria Alimberti

Executive Director's Report- Gina Maria Alimberti

I am very pleased with our 2022 accomplishments and ending the year with almost 27,000 visitors. 72% of our visitors visited from Connecticut and 28% from outside of Connecticut. We had 17,013 adult visitors & 9642 Child visitors (under the age of 18). Thanks to substantial gate receipts, grants and contributions we ended 2022 in good financial shape. The Development Committee raised a total of \$226,548 from gift and grants.

Thanks to the William & Alice Mortensen Foundation, Mohegan Sun & the Antonacci Family Foundation we now have a beautiful updated lobby with new carpet, new ceiling tiles and a fresh coat of paint. The carpet in the Gift Shop was also installed at the same time as the lobby facelift. After many years of our signals not always working properly I can now say that have been restored to operating order which is a very big accomplishment for us! The Museum collaborated with the East Windsor Arts and Culture Committee, RiseUP for Arts and a local artist who painted a instagramable mural of Trolley Car #355 on our main building near the entrance. The main parking lot entrance crossing was re-built thanks to the Track Department. The work consisted of building a new track panel to replace the old crossing with 2 "new" 80 pound rails, new spikes and plates. We sold our CNS&M Car 162 to East Troy Railroad Museum, they will be doing a full operational restoration. The Museum hired a contractor who installed 200 NEW ties between Winkler Crossing and Station 7. This project is long overdue and just a small percentage of ties that need to be replaced. Montreal Tramways Observation Car 4 has been cosmetically restored thanks to our amazing volunteers. We restored the walkway between the Northern, Caboose and Ponemah with trek flooring. We installed a new Backlit photo display exhibit in the lobby. We hosted the Heritage Rail Alliance Group during their Annual Conference. Back in September. The group visited our Museum, Fire Truck Museum, Restoration/Maintenance Shop & rode on Car 303 & 4. Representatives from Rail Museums as far as California and some from Canada were amongst the group.



We hired a Visitor Experience Manager to manage the gift shop, birthday parties & family programs. This has helped me give more time to my Executive Director responsibilities and its great to have someone to rely on.

I look forward to more accomplishments this coming year. Thanks to all of our supporters, volunteers, patrons, members & staff, the Museum would not be successful without each one of you!

President's Report— Robert Brogle

Good Evening, and welcome to the 2023 annual meeting!

As I always do first, I want to thank everyone in attendance for coming this evening, We have accomplished much in the last year, and none of it would have happened without the tireless effort of our volunteers.

2022 was one of the most significant in respect to fundraising. The most significant success was the award of a \$750,000 grant by Congressman John Larson's office via HUD. This grant will permit redesign and re-build of the museum's drainage system and paving of the parking lot. This will be a significant project that will have major positive implications for the museum's visitor experience and facility access.

Speaking of access, we received a grant from Cigna foundation and two donor advised funds at the Hartford foundation for Public Giving for a wheelchair lift to allow our limited mobility visitors access to a trolley ride. One sister museum in New England already has one of these units, and it's allowed us to be more inclusive for our patrons.

2022 was also a significant year for other facility improvement. We received a large grant for energy efficiency. This grant permitted us to upgrade all of our facility lighting to energy efficient LED units thanks to Cigna. This improvement is expected to save us 20+% per year on our electricity consumption, and further improve our visitor experience. In addition, there were funds leftover from this project that allowed us to add additional lighting under the train shed area.

Many of us are aware that we have been short staffed for several years in the shop. John Pelletier graciously served in restoration and maintenance roles for several years. We began searching for additional staff in mid 2022, and by February of this year, we hired Giovanni Rescigno to work on car maintenance. Additionally, we hired Phil Beard in May of this year, and he and Gio usually work one day a week, on Saturdays. Their focus is current operational fleet maintenance, and evaluating other currently non operational cars that may be close to operation including 451, 15, and 2600. A plan is also being made to rebuild the ends of 5645 and return it to service. 303 will ultimately be stripped of paint, scrapped, and prepared to be painted and reserved for limited/special service. I encourage all of you to walk up to the shop and see the progress.

There has also been significant work in the area of board development. With the new 2021 bylaws in place, we now have term limits for our board members. This has resulted in a near complete turnover of our board since 2020. With tonight's meeting, we say THANK YOU to Larry Bryan, Sara Garthwait, and Bryan Soltis after several terms on the board. We will be electing two new board members tonight as well. We will continue to search for qualified candidates for our board before next year's meeting. If you know a qualified candidate, come talk to me. In addition, Dulcie Giadone will be stepping away from her grant writing duties here at the museum slowly over the next several months. Great fundraising starts with quality written grants, and she's performed those functions admirably. Thank you Dulcie!

Museum revenue continues to be strong with our special events (both new and legacy ones) and for new ones that have been tried over the last year. There is a ton of stuff that goes on here daily, and I want to thank our Executive Director Gina Maria Alimberty for being the glue that holds this place together. She has a tough job and does it well, and I'm proud to call her a colleague.

Speaking of glue that holds us all together, there can't be just one person performing that function. IT HAS TO BE ALL OF US. While we are certainly going to have our differences, remember to put that stuff aside, work together for the betterment of the museum, and HAVE FUN!

Buildings Report– James Borup

During the past calendar year (2022), some of the repairs/improvements are as follows:

1. Added new stairs, railings and Trex decking to the elevated walkway in the visitors center
 2. Demo old ceiling grid in lobby and install a new 2x2 grid along with new tiles
 3. Patched walls and re-paint lobby and vending machine area
 4. Ripped out all carpet from lobby and gift shop and installed new carpet tiles
 5. Assisted with installation of LED lighted photo display on lobby wall
 6. Replaced the plexiglass in windows separating the lobby from the gift shop with 3/16" tempered glass. Same for transom window above entry doors
 7. Replace rotted sections of two support poles on Kelly barn
 8. Make temporary repairs to roof on Kelly barn
 9. Wrap all clerestory window sills on south side of visitors center with dark green aluminum (in lieu of painting again)
 10. Re-built tank car on kids playscape
 11. Misc. painting throughout the museum property, thanks to Scott and Pete
- Hopefully 2023 will see even more improvements and repairs to our buildings and grounds.



Grounds Report– Don Nordell

- Experimented with ventilating the storage PODs. This was done by installing static vents in either ends of the pods with hopes that a draft would help keep condensation from damaging the contents. Next will be installation of fans.
- Two weed killer applications on right of way (ROW) have kept the tracks clear of unwanted foliage. Also thanks to some of the younger motormen for their efforts in clearing the larger brush from the sides of the ROW.
- Thanks to Ed Carlson for the use of his wood chipper that allowed us to get the large pile of branches cleared from the member's lot. Also thanks to our volunteers that showed up to feed the chipper

Development Report– Michael Speciale

On behalf of the Development Committee, I am pleased to report that income from gifts and grants in 2022 amounted to \$226,548. The 197 donors who provided support included individuals, businesses, foundations and the State of Connecticut. This contributed income was used to support the general operating budget and a number of special projects including substantial tie replacement work; the exterior restoration of Montreal Tramways Observation Car 4; the renovation of the lobby in the Visitor Center; the acquisition of a wheelchair lift to provide access to our trolleys for visitors with mobility issues; the continuing multi-year restoration of Connecticut Company Car 3001; and an energy efficiency project to re-lamp all of the interior and exterior lighting fixtures. We also received the good news that we were awarded a \$750,000 Federal grant to support the installation of a site wide drainage system and a paved parking lot.

Fourteen businesses supported the Museum by joining as Corporate Partners. In addition to the financial contributions that were made, there were many in kind donations that helped the Museum in a number of ways. We are grateful for all of the contributions that were received last year and a complete list is posted on the Museum's website.

The Development Committee members include myself as Chair, Dulcie Giadone as Grants Administrator and Andy Hoffman as Community Outreach Coordinator. Dulcie and Andy did an outstanding job and were responsible for most of the Committee's success. Sadly, we have lost Andy as he passed away in early 2023. He will be greatly missed. We also appreciate the staff support that we received from the Museum's Executive Director, Gina Maria Alimberti.

But most of all, we are grateful for the support of our donors whose help has kept us on the road to progress.

Thank you!

Safety & Security Report– Bert Johanson

In 2021 the museum management made the decision to go to an out vendor for the alarm systems at the museum. For 35 years the museum had maintained the systems. A vendor was chosen in late 2021 and during 2022 installed new fire alarm panels in four museum buildings. This is state-of-the-art panels and reporting system to the central station.

Looking forward the plan is to extend the fire alarm system to other museum buildings to give us complete fire coverage for all museum buildings. This will depend on available funds and a possible grant for fire and security at the museum. The security system also needs upgrading but it was felt that fire protection was primary.

Volunteerism Report- Larry Lunden

One department has split this year. The Signaling, Communication & Electric Traction department is now the Signaling department and the Electric Traction department. Most of the same people are working with both departments.

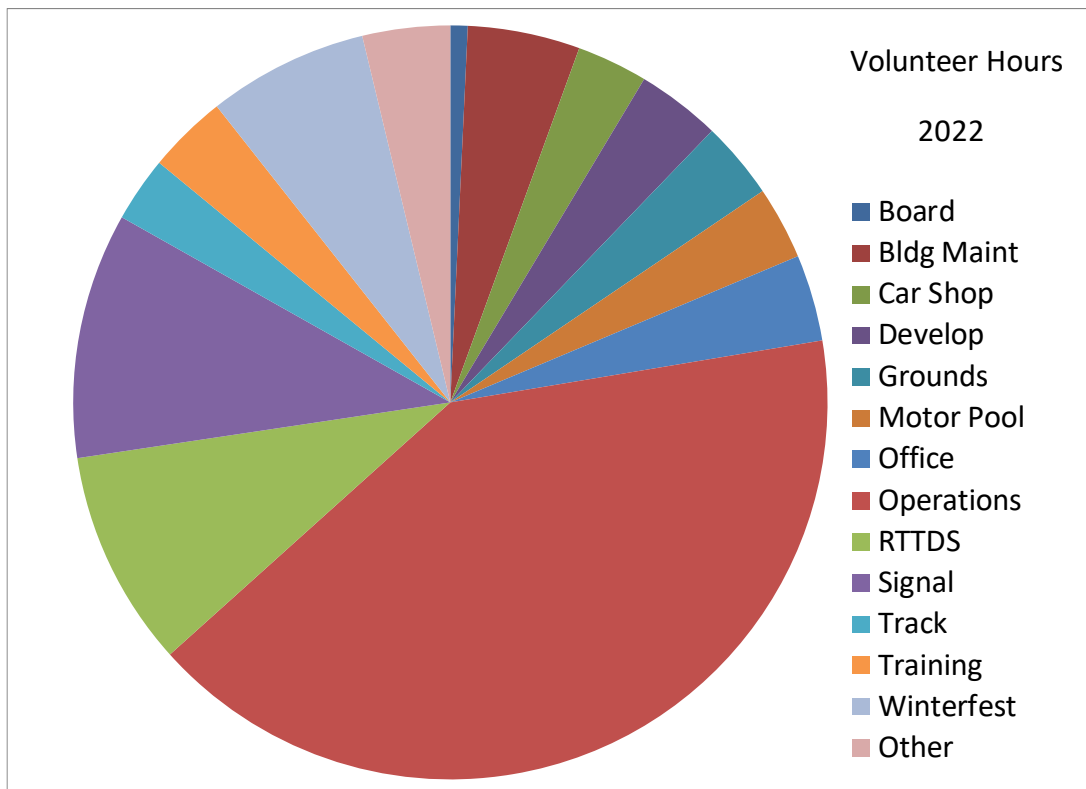
This year we added 47 new volunteers to our ranks, bringing the number of volunteers to 169. Some are sitting out because of COVID and other reasons, we don't yet know how many of these have moved on or are waiting to return when they have a level of comfort. 126 have signed in with at least some hours recorded. We are clarifying the active ones.

Our volunteers signed in 3132 times and contributed a total of 14,998 hours of service to the museum. This is 10% less than the 2019 level. I am unsure if fewer hours are being worked, or if not all hours are being recorded.

Most departments have recorded fewer hours. The Building Maintenance, Motor Pool, and Shop (including operations personnel efforts) departments showed big increases. Development, Track, and Signal/SC&ET departments showed decreases.

All volunteers, no matter the time contributed, are a valuable part of our mission. As is normal, our volunteers vary widely in the amount of hours they are able to contribute. Just 16 volunteers contributed 50% of the hours. 32 of our volunteers contributed 75% of the hours. 55 of our volunteers contributed 90% of the hours. This is not something that needs to be fixed, just recognized.

We are continuing to use unitedwayinc.galaxydigital.com, createthegood.org, and volunteermatch.org web sites to recruit volunteers. A link to Volunteer Match is on the volunteer page of our web site. Please check it out for the latest opportunities we have.



Operations Report– Roger Pierson

During 2022 we ran car 4, 16, 65, 355, 1326, 5645 and CA&E 303 with limited service for special events. Even with our limited amount of Motorman and Conductors we were able to keep up with operations on a normal schedule. We were also able to run normally for or our special events like Fire Truck Show and First Responders' Day, Mother's Day, Connecticut Open House Day, Father's Day Behind the Scenes Tour, Superhero and Princess Day, Pumpkin Patch, Rails to the Darkside and Winterfest.

I want to thank all the volunteers who have helped with operations and for the support in keeping our museum moving forward. Lastly, we are always looking for motormen, conductors, & junior motorman– It would be great if you could pass the word around.

During Winterfest we ran Elf on the Elgin Car 303 on Friday nights along with our very popular Electric Sleigh Car 4 and Electro Toboggan Car 355. During Winterfest we also ran closed car 65, 16, 1326, 5645 with each car decorated differently for the Holiday.

This year I added led lights on the open cars and closed cars. Over the last couple of years we have received a lot of compliments from visitors and members about the led light upgrade. Campiti Ventures LLC light shows were a hit with the visitors and the favorite show being Santa's Workshop at Woods Barn. During the day we ran cars for Breakfast with Santa & Storytime Trolley with Santa. These daytime events are very popular amongst families with younger children.



Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax

OMB No. 1545-0047

Under section 501(c), 527, or 4947(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (except private foundations)

2022

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
Go to www.irs.gov/Form990 for instructions and the latest information.

Open to Public Inspection

A For the 2022 calendar year, or tax year beginning **01/01/2022** and ending **12/31/2022**

B Check if applicable:
 Address change
 Name change
 Initial return
 Final return/terminated
 Amended return
 Application pending

C Name of organization **CONNECTICUT ELECTRIC RAILWAY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**
 Doing business as **The Connecticut Trolley Museum**
 Number and street (or P.O. box if mail is not delivered to street address) Room/suite
P O Box 360 58 North Road
 City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
East Windsor, CT 06088-0360

D Employer identification number
06-6070002

E Telephone number
860-627-6540

F Name and address of principal officer: **Robert Brogle**
58 North Road, PO Box 360, East Windsor, CT 06088-0360

G Gross receipts \$ **632,693**

H(a) Is this a group return for subordinates? Yes No
H(b) Are all subordinates included? Yes No
 If "No," attach a list. See instructions.

I Tax-exempt status: 501(c)(3) 501(c) () (insert no.) 4947(a)(1) or 527

J Website: **www.ct-trolley.org**

K Form of organization: Corporation Trust Association Other

L Year of formation: **1940**

M State of legal domicile: **CT**

Part I Summary

Activities & Governance	1	Briefly describe the organization's mission or most significant activities: Trolley Museum-Provide a historically accurate educational experience of the trolley era through interpretation, preservation, restoration, and operation of an electric railway.		
	2	Check this box <input type="checkbox"/> if the organization discontinued its operations or disposed of more than 25% of its net assets.		
	3	Number of voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1a)	3	14
	4	Number of independent voting members of the governing body (Part VI, line 1b)	4	14
	5	Total number of individuals employed in calendar year 2022 (Part V, line 2a)	5	8
	6	Total number of volunteers (estimate if necessary)	6	147
	7a	Total unrelated business revenue from Part VIII, column (C), line 12	7a	0
b	Net unrelated business taxable income from Form 990-T, Part I, line 11	7b	0	
Revenue	8	Contributions and grants (Part VIII, line 1h)	258,961	255,665
	9	Program service revenue (Part VIII, line 2g)	305,216	314,539
	10	Investment income (Part VIII, column (A), lines 3, 4, and 7d)	14,684	31,006
	11	Other revenue (Part VIII, column (A), lines 5, 6d, 8c, 9c, 10c, and 11e)	16,285	15,427
	12	Total revenue—add lines 8 through 11 (must equal Part VIII, column (A), line 12)	595,146	616,637
Expenses	13	Grants and similar amounts paid (Part IX, column (A), lines 1–3)	0	0
	14	Benefits paid to or for members (Part IX, column (A), line 4)	0	0
	15	Salaries, other compensation, employee benefits (Part IX, column (A), lines 5–10)	124,049	141,891
	16a	Professional fundraising fees (Part IX, column (A), line 11e)	0	0
	b	Total fundraising expenses (Part IX, column (D), line 25)		
	17	Other expenses (Part IX, column (A), lines 11a–11d, 11f–24e)	373,827	454,403
18	Total expenses. Add lines 13–17 (must equal Part IX, column (A), line 25)	497,876	596,294	
19	Revenue less expenses. Subtract line 18 from line 12	97,270	20,343	
Net Assets or Fund Balances	20	Total assets (Part X, line 16)	1,966,645	1,984,739
	21	Total liabilities (Part X, line 26)	287,750	285,502
	22	Net assets or fund balances. Subtract line 21 from line 20	1,678,895	1,699,237

Part II Signature Block

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete. Declaration of preparer (other than officer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge.

Sign Here

Signature of officer: **Robert Brogle, President**
 Date: _____
 Type or print name and title

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name: _____ Preparer's signature: _____ Date: _____
 Check if self-employed PTIN: _____
 Firm's name: _____ Firm's EIN: _____
 Firm's address: _____ Phone no.: _____

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown above? See instructions Yes No

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the separate instructions.

Cat. No. 11282Y

Form **990** (2022)

Part VIII Statement of Revenue

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part VIII

			(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	
			Total revenue	Related or exempt function revenue	Unrelated business revenue	Revenue excluded from tax under sections 512-514	
Contributions, Gifts, Grants, and Other Similar Amounts	1a	Federated campaigns	1a				
	b	Membership dues	1b	20,979			
	c	Fundraising events	1c				
	d	Related organizations	1d				
	e	Government grants (contributions)	1e	49,640			
	f	All other contributions, gifts, grants, and similar amounts not included above	1f	185,046			
	g	Noncash contributions included in lines 1a-1f	1g	\$			
	h	Total. Add lines 1a-1f		255,665			
Program Service Revenue			Business Code				
	2a	Winterfest Seasonal Rides & Exhibits	712110	114,382	114,382	0	
	b	Youths Rails to the Dark Side Rides & Exhibits	712110	65,561	65,561	0	
	c	Childrens Pumpkin Patch Rides & Exhibits	712110	51,002	51,002	0	
	d	General Admissions including Summer at t	712110	38,641	38,641	0	
	e	Easter Bunny Fun Day	712110	21,314	21,314	0	
	f	All other program service revenue		23,639	23,639	0	
g	Total. Add lines 2a-2f		314,539				
Other Revenue	3	Investment income (including dividends, interest, and other similar amounts)		366	366	0	
	4	Income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds		0	0	0	
	5	Royalties		0	0	0	
	6a	Gross rents	(i) Real	(ii) Personal			
			6a				
			6b				
	c	Less: rental expenses	6c	0	0		
	d	Net rental income or (loss)					
	7a	Gross amount from sales of assets other than inventory	(i) Securities	(ii) Other			
			7a	30,640			
			7b	0			
	c	Less: cost or other basis and sales expenses	7c	30,640	0		
	d	Net gain or (loss)		30,640	30,640	0	
	8a	Gross income from fundraising events (not including \$ of contributions reported on line 1c). See Part IV, line 18	8a				
b	Less: direct expenses	8b					
c	Net income or (loss) from fundraising events						
9a	Gross income from gaming activities. See Part IV, line 19						
		9a					
		9b					
c	Net income or (loss) from gaming activities						
10a	Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances						
		10a	31,483				
		10b	16,056				
c	Net income or (loss) from sales of inventory		15,427	15,427	0		
Miscellaneous Revenue			Business Code				
	11a						
	b						
	c						
	d	All other revenue					
e	Total. Add lines 11a-11d		0				
12	Total revenue. See instructions		616,637	360,972	0		

Part IX Statement of Functional Expenses

Section 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) organizations must complete all columns. All other organizations must complete column (A).

Check if Schedule O contains a response or note to any line in this Part IX

Do not include amounts reported on lines 6b, 7b, 8b, 9b, and 10b of Part VIII.		(A) Total expenses	(B) Program service expenses	(C) Management and general expenses	(D) Fundraising expenses
1	Grants and other assistance to domestic organizations and domestic governments. See Part IV, line 21				
2	Grants and other assistance to domestic individuals. See Part IV, line 22				
3	Grants and other assistance to foreign organizations, foreign governments, and foreign individuals. See Part IV, lines 15 and 16				
4	Benefits paid to or for members				
5	Compensation of current officers, directors, trustees, and key employees	73,710	73,710		
6	Compensation not included above to disqualified persons (as defined under section 4958(f)(1)) and persons described in section 4958(c)(3)(B)				
7	Other salaries and wages	47,947	47,947		
8	Pension plan accruals and contributions (include section 401(k) and 403(b) employer contributions)				
9	Other employee benefits	9,912	9,912		
10	Payroll taxes	10,322	10,322		
11	Fees for services (nonemployees):				
a	Management				
b	Legal				
c	Accounting	1,000		1,000	
d	Lobbying				
e	Professional fundraising services. See Part IV, line 17				
f	Investment management fees				
g	Other. (If line 11g amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 11g expenses on Schedule O.)				
12	Advertising and promotion	17,575	17,575		
13	Office expenses	12,704	9,510	3,194	
14	Information technology	6,567	6,567		
15	Royalties	0			
16	Occupancy	147,977	147,977		
17	Travel				
18	Payments of travel or entertainment expenses for any federal, state, or local public officials				
19	Conferences, conventions, and meetings	1,067	1,067		
20	Interest				
21	Payments to affiliates				
22	Depreciation, depletion, and amortization	74,665	74,665		
23	Insurance	12,074	10,531	1,543	
24	Other expenses. Itemize expenses not covered above. (List miscellaneous expenses on line 24e. If line 24e amount exceeds 10% of line 25, column (A), amount, list line 24e expenses on Schedule O.)				
a	Restoration & Repairs Trolleys & Rolling Stock	89,324	89,324	0	0
b	Visitor Experience & Event Related	72,073	72,073	0	0
c	Track, overhead & Signal Related	11,700	11,700	0	0
d	Volunteer Meetings & Related Expenses	7,677	7,677	0	0
e	All other expenses				
25	Total functional expenses. Add lines 1 through 24e	596,294	590,557	5,737	0
26	Joint costs. Complete this line only if the organization reported in column (B) joint costs from a combined educational campaign and fundraising solicitation. Check here <input type="checkbox"/> if following SOP 98-2 (ASC 958-720)				

Connecticut Electric Railway Association
4 Year Look Back

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income				
Contributions and Grants	291,215	180,290	258,961	255,665
Program Revenue	266,051	136,616	305,216	314,539
Investment Income	4,761	5,015	14,684	31,006
Other Revenue	11,955	5,931	16,285	15,427
Total Income	573,982	327,852	595,146	616,637
Expenses				
Salaries	120,911	108,283	124,049	141,891
Other Expenses	373,058	298,834	373,827	454,403
Total Expenses	493,969	407,117	497,876	596,294
Revenue less Expenses	80,013	-79,265	97,270	20,343
Events				
Winterfest	80,812	53,067	115,659	114,382
Rails	57,585	15,370	56,543	65,561
General Admissions	50,359	15,051	35,018	38,641
Pumpkin Patch	38,859	38,023	44,616	51,002
Easter Bunny	10,651	5,355	17,852	21,314
Other	27,785	9,950	35,528	23,639
Cash at year end	246,977	256,096	348,008	404,210