



KEOKUK UNION DEPOT FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 463
KEOKUK, IOWA 52632

March 2019

DEPOT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Dear Depot Supporters,

The Depot began 2019 with the important completion of the installation of the fire and burglary alarm systems. The hardware for the systems was funded by grants from local foundations. Membership donations will help fund the monthly costs of monitoring the systems, including relays to the fire and police departments should the alarms be triggered.

The Depot Commission and Depot Foundation have been working together to prioritize the next rounds of projects. For 2019 plans are underway for improving the property's landscaping to provide better parking, exterior lighting, and an enhanced appearance as one approaches the Depot. This year we also plan to lay the groundwork for completing the restoration of the interior and exterior of the upriver end of the Depot, the former waiting room area that is now used for all the events at the Depot. This will include professional design and architectural services and detailed cost estimates to support a major initiative in 2020. Contributions to the Depot Foundation in 2019 will support these efforts. We hope to raise in 2019 at least as much from donations as in 2018—approximately \$35,000—in order to pursue these projects.

The Depot Foundation is consulting with the Jeffris Family Foundation as we plan for the next phase of the Depot's restoration. By meeting the Jeffris Family Foundation's high standards for historic preservation and helping ensure the Depot's capacity to be self-supporting, we hope to be favorably considered for a second challenge grant in 2020. A Jeffris challenge grant could cover one-third of the project's estimated cost if we raise the balance within three years. Projects under consideration for challenge grant funding beginning in mid-2020 include restoring the trackside passenger canopy (aka "train shed") and installing period lighting; restoring the exterior masonry around the waiting room area, including the deteriorated sandstone sills, mudsills, and damp proof coursing to stop deterioration caused by rising damp; cleaning and repointing the brick façade around the waiting room area; restoring the waiting room windows; and installing a new marble tile floor in the waiting room to reproduce the original.

None of these projects nor day-to-day maintenance are possible without the financial support of people like you. Enclosed is a 2019 Membership Form to submit with your donation to the Keokuk Union Depot Foundation. On behalf of the Depot Foundation and the Depot Commission, THANK YOU!

The Depot continues to be a popular venue for events. A newly purchased sound system available for rental will enhance the experience at reunions, bridal and baby showers, weddings, parties, and concerts. The volunteers made an attractive and practical movable case for the equipment. Dates for 2019 rentals are filling up quickly! Visit www.keokukuniondepot.org for rental information. Soon there will be an attractive sign located at the entrance to the parking lot with links to Depot information for visitors.

Volunteers have improved the waiting room by stripping layers of paint from the terrazzo floor. If you look closely, you can see images of the original marble tile below the terrazzo. They also made a vertical lift panel for the arched opening

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The Keokuk Union Depot Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

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between the waiting room and the baggage room. Depot volunteers were also instrumental in installing the wiring for the alarm systems, thus reducing their overall cost.

Please enjoy the drone photo below taken in February 2019 by Blake Clark, a 2018 graduate of Keokuk High School, and the sunset photo taken in January 2019 by Keokuk professional photographer Doug Ewing. Both have graciously permitted the Depot to provide them for you. These photos offer perspectives of the Depot not often seen. A 4x6 copy of the Ewing photo was enclosed in the recent mailing of this letter to prior donors.

Sincerely,
Janet M. Smith
President, Keokuk Union Depot Foundation

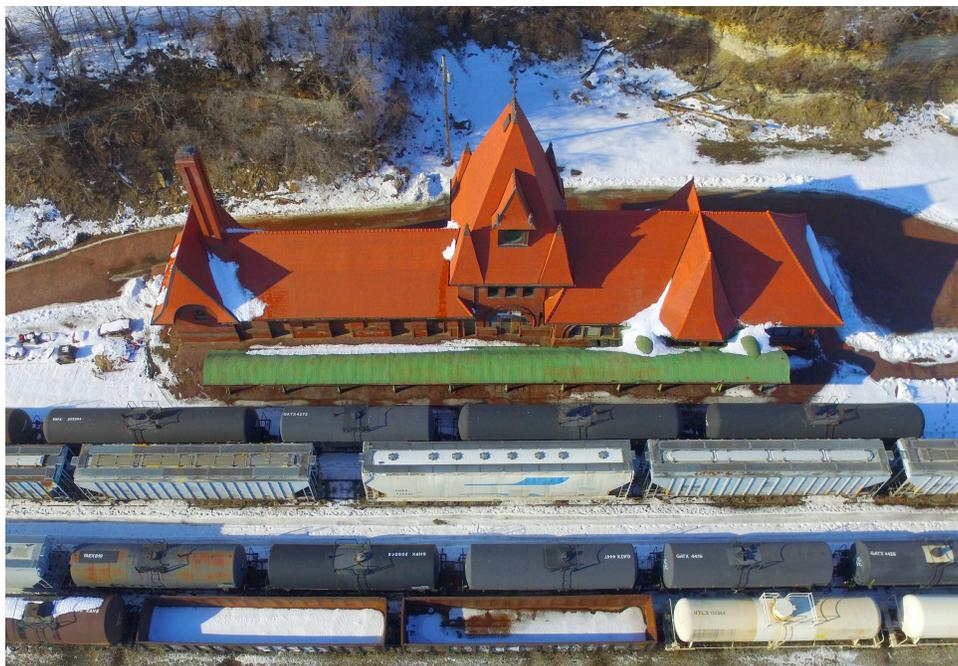


Photo by Blake Clark, © February 2019



Photo by Doug Ewing, © January 9, 2019