

- [Home](#)
- [News](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Listings](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
- [Marketplace](#)

Search the archive... 

Steamtown's McKnight addresses Nicholson historians

Posted by [wceditor](#) on 10/31/12 • Categorized as [News](#)



Steamtown National Park historian Pat McKnight, left, and Nicholson Heritage Association Chairman Marion Sweet hold up pictures of the Nicholson Bridge at the conclusion of the association's meeting last Wednesday. STAFF PHOTO/PATRICK LEONARD

BY PATRICK LEONARD

Wyoming County Press Examiner

The Nicholson Heritage Association welcomed Steamtown National Park historian Pat McKnight to its monthly meeting at the First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday evening.

McKnight served as the meeting's guest speaker. He has a master's degree in history from the University of Wyoming and has worked for the National Park Service in such places as Washington and Alaska. He also worked to assist with the BP oil spill in Mississippi.

"A lot of people don't understand what Steamtown is," McKnight told the Association. "They just think of the shopping mall. We were created to further public understanding of the railroads in Northeastern Pa. We care about the natural and cultural history of the area."

Association chairman Marion Sweet was thrilled that McKnight took the time out of his busy schedule to attend the heritage meeting. She said that she is excited about the association's partnering with Steamtown to help out in any way that it can.

"We have members who would like to volunteer at Steamtown," Sweet said excitedly. "Having Mr. McKnight come here tonight to explain what his company does and enlighten us about our heritage is a huge boost to our organization. He is going to be hearing back from us, that's for sure."

McKnight stressed to those in attendance that there is a lot of work to be done at the Steamtown archives and any help that members of the association can offer is greatly appreciated.

"Everyone has their own little talents that they can contribute," McKnight said. "We can tailor what we need done to an individual's wants and desires. We've had students from Wyoming Valley West High School come in to help transcribe our records. There really is something for everyone who is interested."

McKnight also serves on the Steamtown Marathon's race committee board. He told the members of the association that there is no one event that can turn around a community's economic struggles but activities such as the marathon and the heritage association point a community in the right direction.

"There is no silver bullet for an economic boom," McKnight said, "but a lot of little things add up. Who would have ever thought that you can't get a hotel in

Scranton over Columbus Day weekend, but that's been the effect of the marathon. Organizations like (the heritage association) keep history alive."

McKnight credited Syracuse University for donating records from its archives of the DL&W Railroad to Steamtown about six months ago. He said that it shows the level of Steamtown's commitment to its field of work.

"We are partnering with whoever we can on different projects to tell the story of the railroads," McKnight said. "Steamtown exists not for ourselves but for railroad preservation."

McKnight noted that his job at Steamtown is a demanding one, sometimes requiring him to work 12 hours a day or more, but he said that he would not want to have it any other way.

"I enjoy my job so much that it's hard to call it work," McKnight said with a proud smile.

Eight members of the heritage association attended the evening's meeting.

0 comments



Comments for this thread are now closed. [Close icon]

Best Community

Share [Settings icon]

No one has commented yet.

ALSO ON WYOMING COUNTY EXAMINER

Prison time for pot-growing operation 1 comment

DA race tops May ballot 1 comment

AROUND THE WEB

What's this?

Complete Schedule of Cruise Ship Renovations Reviewed

How to Buy a Foreclosed Home eHow

Comment feed [Subscribe via email icon]

Get \$25 Worth of Aromatic Indian Cuisine for Only \$12.50 at Amber Indian Restaurant in Moosic!!

Scranton Daily Deals powered by ReferLocal

WIN COMPUTERS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

DISCOVERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

NOMINATE WYOMING COUNTY STUDENTS

Scranton Daily Deals powered by ReferLocal