



The Second Section



Minutes from the August 18, 2016 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:29 p.m. at the display site, Pomona Park, in Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Ron Stafford, and Jim Saulsbery.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin read the current financial status. Disclosed were the current balances, restricted and unrestricted, income and expenses. Restricted funds include the Heist Fund, the Bingham Fund, and the Snowplow Fund. Income was from dues and donations. Expenses were mostly buying paint from Sherwin-Williams. Upcoming expenses will include the state sales tax.

Committee Reports Budget / Finance

Fundraising for the Snowplow Project is well under way. Ed Cronin applied for a Rotary Club matching funds grant. He expects the Rotary Club to respond soon. All information needed for the Dailey Foundation grant has been forwarded to Marilyn Black of the Oil Region Alliance.

Marilyn is writing the grant application for the FCVRRHS. Carl Timko has looked into crowd-funding on the internet. Go Fund Me was the first one that was looked at. Go Fund Me's charges, in total, were 9.25% per donation. Generosity.com was also studied. Their rates were more acceptable, being only 3% plus 30 cents per donation. If a donor gave \$100, then the FCVRRHS account would have \$3.30 deducted for their fee. Carl was given the green light to start the fundraising procedures.

To help with the fundraising, webmaster Dianne Jones said she will have the Snowplow Project displayed on the website soon.

Merchandise is needing to be ordered to have in time for the Erie train show in November. Items include the caboose tee-shirts, crew neck sweatshirts, and hats. The stock of polo shirts and 518 tee shirts are in good shape. Customers will have to order the hooded sweatshirts. *(editor's note: The hats and crew neck sweatshirts were ordered. After inquiring about the price for reprinting the caboose shirts, it was decided not to order these for now.)*

The 2017 calendar photos have been selected. Captions are

being written for the photos. Given that fifteen of the 2016 calendars are still unsold, that 50 should be enough to order for now.

Historical / Archives

U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine president Dan Higham is retiring. His retirement leaves the organization wondering if, when, and where the collection will need to be moved. The FCVRRHS also meets at the U.S. Bronze on days when the weather is not fit enough to meet at the display site. Congratulations to Dan on an outstanding career. And thank you, Dan, for letting the FCVRRHS use the facilities for its monthly meetings and storage.

Model Railroad

After discussing the idea of copying the I-80 Group's program, it was generally decided to move forward in implementing it. The I-80 Group has no dues or meetings, but gathers to visit and/or operate model railroads in their region. A number of possible layouts to visit were cited, including Denny Mead's Erie Lackawanna G gauge layout in Erie.

Property / Equipment



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The 518 Project is continuing thanks to the weekly work sessions. The exterior still has one welding job, plus another coat of black paint and the lettering. Inside, Rick Rowlands will soon remove the radiator headers in trade for some cab parts from his former McDonald Steel S2 that does not run any more.

The B&LE Boxcar Project is proceeding nicely. At the last work session (the day of the meeting), the last of the new boards received their first coat of paint, front and back. Next on the agenda is patching the three sides that will not receive new boards. The patches will be made from good boards of the side that needs boards replaced. *(Editor's note: This work was started and completed by a crew of five on the following Thursday after the meeting.)* Other work that needs to be done yet include painting the roof, reinstalling the catwalk and painting it, Replace the boards on the one side, paint a coat of primer on the exterior and apply two coats of paint, remove, repair, and reset the doors, reinstall the hardware, and apply lettering.

TTX has not replied to the application for the use of a flat car to haul the snowplow. Denny Mead says that TTX reviews applications quarterly, so it is possible that TTX replies by sometime in September.

Now that it has been determined that the city of Meadville owns the Erie Railroad Berkshire #3378 bell, a venue for display was discussed. Two suggested sites are the trolley station in Cambridge Springs and the Downtown Mall in Meadville. If it went to the mall, it could be displayed near the model of A&GW 4-4-0 #5 that was built by the Erie Railroad shops.

Public Relations / Education

"Valley Express" editor Carl Timko has started to work on the 2016 Fall newsletter. Submissions are needed from committee chairpersons. The editor hopes to have the newsletter ready to be sent to the publisher by early to mid-October. This would make it available for customers at the Erie train show on November 6. Webmaster Dianne Jones confirmed she will have the revised website up soon. There were a number of changes and enhancements to give the website visitor a better experience.

Train shows and events coming up in the next month or so are as follows:

August 27 - a Murder Mystery Train, sponsored by WNYRHS on the Arcade & Attica Railroad using a diesel locomotive. Tickets are \$55. The ride lasts

from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

August 28 - a Murder Mystery Train sponsored by the Medina Railroad Museum. The train leaves Lockport, N.Y. at 1:00 p.m. and lasts to 7:00 p.m. Dinner and a live band will be featured. Coach tickets are available for \$89 and \$112.50. First class seats are sold out.

August 28 - a railroad memorabilia show at the Painesville Railroad Museum, 375 Railroad St., Painesville, OH. Admission is \$3, hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 10, 11 - a train show at the Buffalo Central Terminal in Buffalo, N.Y.; Admission is \$5, which is good for both days. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 17 - the Firelands Model Railroad Train and Toy Show is at Mansfield, OH. If you need more information about this show, contact Carl Timko.

September 25 - The Penn-Ohio Model Railroad Show and Sale is at the Shenango Valley VFW located at 329 E. State St., Sharon, PA. Admission is \$4. The hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

September 18, 24, 25 - Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 #765 will power excursion trains over the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, near Canton and Akron, OH. More information is available on the internet or by contacting secretary Carl



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Timko.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting will be Thursday, September 15, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. at the display site in Pomona Park, Meadville, PA.

