



The Second Section



August 2015

Vice President Dennis Mead called the membership meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. at the display site in Pomona Park, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Ron Stafford and Pete Gifford.

Treasurer's Report

The monthly financial report was read by Treasurer Ed Cronin. It included current balances, income from dues and donations, expenses for fencing and a flood light, plus reissuing a check to the Humane Society in memory of Joyce Leech.

Committee Reports Museum

The annual meeting for the Heritage Center, which is now doing business as the Northwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Partnership, was held August 10 at the Cambridge Springs trolley station.

A review of all the work that has been done so far in the trolley station was addressed to the crowd of fifty-five. Lighting, wiring, and other construction were being completed by many volunteers, including the Electrical Occupations class from the

Crawford County Career and Technical Center. For their efforts, the class was recognized with the Partner of the Year Award. Their instructor, Rod Frazier, was given the Volunteer of the Year Award. Building inspectors were very pleased with the work that they did on the trolley station.

A third award was initiated at this year's annual meeting. The Historian of the Year Award was given to Anne Stewart, former historian at the Crawford County Historical Society. The award was presented by Dan Higham and will now be known as the Anne Stewart Award.

The featured speaker for this event was Ken Springirth, author of several trolley and railroad books. Ken talked about the importance of the trolley and the Cambridge Springs trolley station during the height of traveling by trolley.

Historical/Archives

The FCVRRHS's new book, "*Erie Railroad - Historic Photographs from the Stuart Ladner Collection*", has been delivered and is available for purchase. The price is \$14.95 plus state sales tax; the total price is \$15.85. Shipping is an extra \$5.75 via Priority Mail service. Contact a board member or visit www.fcvrrhs.org and click on

the "For Sale" button.

The committee will meet with Scott Ladner on September 3 to go over his photographs that will appear in future calendars and possibly another book.

Tom Collard advised Ms. Julie Overton will prepare the railroad artifacts she is donating after her father is back at home from a stay at Wesbury.

New member Cris Myers has his grandfather's photos, including one that shows the bridge beams for Smock Bridge on three 45 foot flatcars. He may make these photographs available to the FCVRRHS. Mr. Myers attended the Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society meeting in August, featuring Dennis Mead, who talked about Stony Point and its relationship with the Erie Railroad.

Property / Equipment

The Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad wooden boxcar may not be delivered by Industrial Truck and Crane for up to another two weeks, as of the date of the meeting. ITC is experiencing problems with their trailer on which the boxcar will ride. Jack Sheets said ITC may load and haul the boxcar on a Saturday, with no additional cost, if necessary. Summer hours are over at the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society, and their members'



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schedules are limited. There was concern over the gate through Cliffstar's property, a business adjacent to the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society property. It would be the easiest access to the boxcar for ITC.

A few things are still needing welded on the #518, but it is ready for lettering, which now may not happen until Spring 2016. The handrails have now all been painted yellow. John Snyder finished the task recently, by painting the grab irons on the cab end and front of the steps. The next task is steam cleaning the wheel sets, which is scheduled within a week of the August meeting. Stan Niwa has been welding plates on the cab to repair the sides.

The Erie Lackawanna caboose now has a fresh coat of paint inside. Plans are to put the visitor's steps back in place so ELHS guests can tour the caboose. The #C356 still belongs to the ELHS, but it is on loan to the FCVRRHS, and has been since 2006.

The powers that be in Crawford County are preparing the correct documents of the Charles Smock property, located across from the display site at Pomona Park. Attorney John Nagurney has been in contact with Meadville City and Crawford County governments

for the purpose of acquiring the Smock property by the FCVRRHS.

Public Relations/Education

"Valley Express" editor Carl Timko asked that submissions for the newsletter be sent in soon. It is hoped that the Fall edition will be out by October 1. The new shirts are now available through the website. Polo shirts are \$20 and tee shirts are \$17. Shipping is extra as described on the web page.

An organization in Erie has expressed interest in having Dennis Mead talk before their group at a Maennerchor Club luncheon.

Budget / Finance

Assistant treasurer Vanessa Timko reports that ten shirts: six polo shirts and four tee shirts were sold. She noted the total income from the shirt sales.

The Tom E. Dailey Foundation emailed Secretary Carl Timko to notify the FCVRRHS that a decision will be reached the weekend after this meeting, with notification of their decision by the evening of Sunday, August 22. *(editor's note: the decision was not to award the FCVRRHS this time, but encouraged the organization to try again.)*

"Trains Magazine" is conducting a grant program for railroad preservation programs

for 2016. It was suggested to try for a grant for the boxcar or for archive preservation. Dennis Mead suggested using the funds, if awarded, to clean up Pomona Park.

Special Events/Programs

The Erie Lackawanna Historical Society 2015 Convention is fast approaching. The event is less than a month away with the event starting Friday, September 18 and continuing through Sunday, September 20, though no events are scheduled for Sunday. French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society members are needed to tend to the vendor table on Friday and Saturday. Members are also needed at the caboose to conduct tours on Saturday and Sunday of that weekend. The caboose is expected to be open between noon and 3:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m. The Riverside Inn has 25 guests registered to stay at the Inn so far for the ELHS event. Dinner speaker, Carl Belke's room is part of a complimentary package for the event.

Ken Springirth will appear at the trolley station to sell and sign books from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, at no charge to him.

Train shows and events for the month of September that are within driving distance are as follows:



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* September 13 - NETS All Scale Train Meet / Railfanning Day - Painesville, Ohio Railroad Museum, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - admission is free, donations are accepted.

* September 19 - Firelands Model Railroad Historical Society at the Richland County Fairgrounds in Mansfield, OH - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. - admission is \$5.

* September 25, 26 - East Coast Train Show at the York Expo Center, York, PA

* September 26 - Fostoria Rail Festival at the Fostoria Junior/Senior High School in Fostoria, OH - admission is \$4.

Model Railroad

The Model Railroad Committee had no report for this month.

Membership

Dennis Mead's speech at the Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society meeting has resulted in one new member, Cris Myers. Welcome aboard, Cris!

There are still a few members who have not renewed their membership.

The expiration date sticker that attached to the back of the membership cards will no longer be issued. The stickers were primarily needed when a discount at Tom's Train Terminal was requested. Since the train shop is no longer in

business, the stickers became redundant. Members will be notified of receipt of their dues by email. Those without email will be notified by postcard.

John Snyder recalled recent visits to the Ashtabula Maritime Museum, the Conneaut Railroad Museum, and the Conneaut Area Historical Society. He went into detail of the displays and gave positive reviews of each. The Ashtabula Maritime Museum is located at 1071 Walnut Blvd. in Ashtabula, the Conneaut Railroad Museum is at 363 Depot Street in Conneaut, Ohio, and the Conneaut Area Historical Society is across the tracks from the railroad museum at 501 Sandusky Street. The building was donated by Nick Pape of Pape's Restaurant.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA. See you there!

