



# The Second Section



Minutes from the December 17, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:07 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Larry Johnson, Bill McComas, John Snyder, Gene Vilkie, and Wayne Brown.

### *Treasurer's Report*

The board heard Treasurer Ed Cronin's report of the current balances, restricted and unrestricted, including donations recently received. Those donations included the publishing of the Fall 2009 issue of "The Valley Express", paid for by Bill and Yetivemarie McComas. Also donated was a trainset from Carl Timko for the purpose of conducting a raffle. The raffle is benefitting Toys for Tots.

One other donation came from Elaine Bingham, fulfilling the wishes of her husband, Bob, who passed away recently. The board approved a motion to earmark this donation for a model railroad project in Bob Bingham's name. The board thanks Mrs. Bingham for her generosity.

### *Committee Reports - Historical / Archives*

The board addressed a problem regarding appraisals wanted by

donors. It was decided that donors now will have to fill out a document to indicate the value of their donation. If the donor wants the items to be appraised, they will have to pay for an appraiser. The Society cannot appraise the value of anything, as it does not have the knowledge or experience to do so. The board moved to draw up an acceptable form for future donations, similar to the form or forms the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society uses. The vote was unanimous by attending members to approve the motion.

### *Museum*

Ed Cronin reported that the museum board directed the Site Committee to prepare for negotiating with a prospective property owner. The museum board would like to settle all issues up front, and has received a preliminary report from a third party.

### *Property/Equipment*

The electricity at the caboose display site has not been hooked up yet. The wires were laid and buried, and Jack Sheets installed a board on which to mount the electrical cabinet. It is expected to be completed in the spring.

### *Public Relations/Education*

The layout at Hobby Headquarters has been

attracting a lot of visitors (ed. note: as of December 17). Tickets were selling well for the trainset. All proceeds from the raffle, which will occur on Saturday, December 19, will go to Toys for Tots.

It was noted the viewing stand was not built for the smaller children to see the layout.

The disassembly and moving of the layout back to the U.S. Bronze is planned to occur on Monday, December 21, at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers at the time of the meeting included John Snyder, Ed Cronin, Bill McComas, Wayne Brown, and possibly Terry Martin.

Member John Snyder expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend to the layout. He said he learned so much while talking with the visitors of the layout.

The Society is to present Rod and Lorraine Armstrong of Hobby Headquarters with a fruit basket and certificate of appreciation. It was through their graciousness that the layout had someplace to be displayed during the holiday season. The Hobby Headquarters will close for good at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19, which is the last operating day for the layout. We will miss not only the hobby shop, but Rod, Lorraine and their children. They were more

than a hobby resource, they became good friends of the members of the FCVRRHS.

### *Budget/Finance*

Ed Cronin reports that the coffers look in good shape to handle the upcoming expenses of the website, insurance premium and future electric bills at the display site.

### *Membership*

Several members have not renewed, while a few remain in question.

The society welcomes new member Gordon Valentine, who signed up at the layout display. Welcome aboard, Gordon!

Several new memberships are pending. This is due to the display of the layout. So many people were impressed by it that they said they would go home and find their old equipment and set it up. The Society is starting to attract more attention from the general public.

A bus tour sign-up sheet is available at the layout display. The proposed tour would be to visit several hobby shops in the bigger cities, such as Buffalo, Cleveland, Youngstown, and Pittsburgh. The list may be a good source to notify prospective attendees to a model railroad seminar. Anyone wanting to be included, please email Carl Timko at [blebuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:blebuddy@yahoo.com). Also, if anyone knows of anyone else that would like

to be included, please contact Carl.

Please note that after the holidays, Tom Collard will be opening his hobby shop, "Tom's Train Terminal" in the @the Bank facilities on Park Avenue in Meadville.

### *Other Business*

Thank-you letters were sent to John Snyder for donation of artifacts, Tom Collard for donation of artifacts, Greg Housel for donation of his heavy equipment to lift the hood off of the #518 on December 12, 2009.

### *Next Meeting*

The next board and general membership meeting for the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society will be January 21, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

