



# The Second Section



Minutes from the June 9, 2011 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:34 p.m., in the Champions Room of the Meadville Country Club, located at 15955 State Route 86, Meadville, PA. Before the meeting a buffet style banquet was served to the attending members. The annual membership dinner consisted of chicken in wine sauce, roast beef in gravy, cut redskin potatoes, green beans with almond slices, a dinner roll, and for dessert, a dish of ice cream with a choice of two toppings.

Attending the dinner and meeting were Dennis and Donna Mead, Ed and Sue Cronin, Bernie Hanmore, Carl Timko, Bill and Yetivemarie McComas, Jack and Linda Sheets, Tom and Sindi Collard, John and Linda Snyder, Wayne Brown, Lee Greenfield, Scott and Kim Wilson, Denis and Laura Manross, and John and Cheryl Nagurney.

Dennis welcomed the group to the banquet and meeting, noting that the Country Club was the first place the membership dinner was held, and now has come full circle back to the Club. He suggested the organization should have the annual dinner continue at the Country Club. He complimented the staff of the Club on their fine meal that was prepared for the

group.

### *Elections of Officers*

The first order of business was the election of officers and board of directors. The secretary, Carl Timko, read the list of nominees for reelection. They were : Dennis Mead as president, Carl Timko as secretary, and board of directors incumbents Tom Collard, Larry Johnson, and John Snyder. Ed Cronin made the motion to reelect all nominees. Bernie Hanmore seconded the motion. The motion carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members. The terms for all officers and directors is two years.

### *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer Ed Cronin gave is report of the current balances in the checking accounts and the 518 fund.

### *Year's progress report*

Dennis Mead noted the progress in the past year, from June 2010 to the present. The 518 project has proceeded nearly as far as it can before the chassis will be lifted off the wheelsets and shipped. One or more small details have yet to be completed. Dennis thanked everyone who took part in the project, especially Terry Martin and Stan Niwa for their expertise in cutting

parts off with torches and cutoff machines. Photos of the progress, by Bill McComas, were passed around.

The caboos was moved, so the track could be raised and leveled to better support the caboos. The need to spread ballast and the caboos moved back to its rightful spot was noted. Upcoming events dictate that the work be completed as soon as possible.

The model railroad club took off to a flying start thanks to Tom Collard and Scott Wilson. They are also responsible for getting several of the younger generation interested in the model railroad club, and the organization.

Dennis thanked Bill McComas for his efforts as the editor of the newsletter, *The Valley Express*. Dennis also commended Bill and his wife, Yetivemarie for their contributions in printing the newsletter.

Dennis acknowledged Carl Timko for his work as secretary and writing *The Second Section*. Jack and Linda Sheets were commended for their work on the caboos, including decorating it during certain holidays, and mowing the area around the caboos.

Dennis also thanked all those who gave their time, labor, support, and

contributions to move the projects forward.

### *Committee Reports* *-Property/Equipment-*

One of the events coming to Meadville this summer is a private car passenger excursion using Bennett Levin's PRR E8's, rolling stock and a couple of private cars from High Iron Travel Excursions. The train is to roll into Meadville on August 6, stay overnight, then proceed with a rare mileage trip over the Oil City branch to as far as Franklin. It will return using WNYP ALCO locomotives to pull the train back into Meadville. From Meadville, it will proceed to Youngstown, then to Pittsburgh and back to Philadelphia. The train will start from Hoboken, NJ. We will have the caboose open during these two days.

Also occurring on this weekend is the Thunder in the City motorcycle fest.

The other major event for having the caboose open is June's annual Thurston Classic. During this event, the caboose will be open to the public on June 17, 18, and 19. All members are encouraged to participate.

Ken Springirth recently contacted the secretary to cancel his appearance at the caboose on July 3. He suggested the FCVRRHS think about rededicating the caboose with a ceremony. If

that were to occur, Mr. Springirth said he would schedule an appearance at the caboose.

The need to complete the display track project was discussed. Wayne Brown said he would contact his friend Jim to bring his tractor over to spread the ballast. Jack Sheets suggested the board consider adding another track panel to the display before the city of Meadville reassesses the property next year. This property and any along French Creek are being assessed as to whether they infringe on the flood plane. The current display is in not infringing the zone, at last report. Jack also advised the Erie Railroad coal tower diamond will be moved back inside the fence with the caboose, on June 16. Jack contacted Jill Withey (formerly Groves) of the Meadville Redevelopment Authority about moving one of the machines on display in Pomona Park. The machine will be moved to allow the crane to lift the chassis of the 518 onto the display track.

The last items to do to remove the chassis are cut the remaining cables, drain the rest of the oil, and remove the traction motors.

It is thought that a crane service in Butler would eat up the funds for the project. The group discussed the possibility of hauling the chassis to Meadville instead,

then wrapping it in a cocoon to sandblast it and paint it. The organization needs an agreement with a crane service. Jack Sheets said the quote from Lloyd's Crane Service hasn't changed. Dennis Mead would like to check with Trailer Train (TTX) about hauling the chassis on a flatcar. The use of the flatcar is said to be free, but the organization would have to pay to have it hauled over the Norfolk Southern. Tom Collard suggested shipping the chassis to Olean, New York via the NS and WNYP to use the WNYP facilities.

### *-Public* *Relations/Education-*

Dennis Mead would like to explore the possibility of tapping into funds raised by the Pennsylvania state specialty license plate program. More information needs to be obtained to determine if the FCVRRHS is eligible.

### *-Historical/Archives-*

Photos and a list were sent to Mike Vickey to produce a calendar for next year. The selection of photos will commence very soon. The photographs are from the Stuart Ladner collection.

### *-Museum-*

Members of the board of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad and

Tooling Museum were given a ninety minute tour of the Drake Well Museum in Titusville. The Drake Well Museum has the same overall dimensions as the proposed railroad and tooling museum. The tour was for the purpose of better visualizing the layout of the new museum compared to the Drake Well Museum. The visit helped with ideas for the colors of the walls, ceiling, and flooring. The Drake Well Museum has a gallery ceiling height of twenty-four feet, which is too high for the proposed museum. Other features of the Drake Well Museum are a theater, which has a capacity of 47 people; flooring made of recycled tires, a "green" system using plumbing in-ground, a multi-purpose room, a kitchen, and a conference room. The Drake Well Museum were not happy with the architectural services, and have problems keeping the humidity low.

In all the tour gave the board a better understanding of what the proposed railroad and tooling museum could look like.

*-Membership-*

A motion was made by Carl Timko to thank Dan Higham for the use of the conference room at the U.S. Bronze Foundry, and Machine, Inc. The FCVRRHS has been having its monthly board and

general membership meetings at the facility for the past several years. Tom Collard seconded the motion. The motion carried and the resolution passed.

*-Next Meeting-*

The next board and general membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 21, 2011, in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA

