

# *Ohio Valley Railroad Historical Foundation, Inc.*

*Preserving the Heritage of Railroading in the Ohio Valley Through Education*

The Ohio Valley Railroad Historical Foundation was incorporated on January 10, 2006 as a 501C3 corporation for the purpose of promoting and preserving the history of the railroads and railroading, past, present and future in the Ohio Valley.

The Ohio Valley has a rich heritage of railroading. Coal from the mines of Virginia, Kentucky and Pennsylvania was hauled by train to the Ohio River where it was loaded on barges for transportation down the Mississippi to Southern states. Oranges, lemons and grapefruits are transported in refrigerated cars from Florida through the Ohio Valley to northern markets. Automobiles from Detroit are hauled on car carriers through the Ohio Valley to dealers throughout the nation. Cattle from Texas were driven to the railheads in Kansas where they were loaded on cattle cars for shipment through the Ohio Valley to the slaughter houses in Chicago. The steaks were then loaded on refrigerator cars for shipment back through the Ohio Valley to the Southern markets. This is just a brief freight history.

Cincinnati and Louisville were major passenger terminals during the heyday of train passenger travel. Presidents campaigned throughout the Ohio Valley from the back of trains on their "Whistle Stop" tours. Movie stars traveled across country to Louisville, KY on fast passenger trains to spend the most exciting two minutes in sports at the Kentucky Derby. During the dark days of WWII, many a GI's memory of the Ohio Valley was what he saw from the window of a troop train.

**The Ohio Valley Railroad Historical Foundation is dedicated to preserving this history. It intends to do this in three ways:**

- I.** We will maintain a library of books, pictures and films on railroading in the Ohio Valley
- II.** We will conduct seminars and instructional talks on the history of railroading in the Ohio Valley
- III.** Through an association with various model railroad clubs in this area, we will promote an interest in model railroading and railroading in general