

Issue Highlights

Annual Meeting

Election of Trustees

President's Message

Membership Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Wanted

2021 Recap

Upcoming Train Show

Erie County Fair- grounds

February 26th & 27th

Notice of Annual Trustees Election

The Society's annual election of Trustees will take place on Tuesday, February 22nd at 7pm at the Heritage Discovery Center. As of December 31, 2021, the terms of 4 Trustees expire. For the annual election, there will therefore be 4 positions available. All four of the incumbents have indicated that they will seek re-election.

The incumbents seeking re-election are:

Joseph V. Kocsis, Jr., Stephen Kocsis, Barbara Owens, Luke Topolski

If re-elected, the 4 incumbents would serve a 3-year term according to the Society's Bylaws. Per the Bylaws, any new Trustee elected initially serves a one-year term. So far, we have received one additional nomination for Alan Olmstead. The election by ballot will be held at the annual meeting.

Member's Multi Media Night

Following the Election and a brief business meeting, we will have our Traditional program inviting members to bring in a selection of their favorite railroad photos or short videos. We will have a standard slide projector and a laptop available for electronic images on your flash drives. Please limit yourself to 40 images and be prepared to narrate them.

President's Message

This will be our first meeting since this COVID Pandemic began and I must apologize for the lack of communication with you, our members. We really need some folks to step up to volunteer. We need someone to take over as Editor of the Railway Flyer, as well as someone to manage our membership. If interested, please let me know. But for now, let me quickly recap the events of this past year.

A high lite of 2021 was the donation of the LV switch engine #252 by Greenridge Generation LLC in Dresden NY. Moved by Southern Tier Express Transport from Dresden NY to the LV Depot in Williamsville, loaded, unloaded and set on track by Winters Rigging Inc, ties donated by Zoladz Construction Co Inc all with funds raised by the WNYRHS Williamsville Depot Committee. Many thanks to all the supporters, all who came out to lay track, move rolling stock and man the many events that made this possible. My personal thanks to VP Marty Visciano for his unwavering dedication to this dream, now a reality. Restoration and preservation of LV #252 is underway. Come out to welcome this jewel to your collection on display at WNYRHS' Williamsville LV Depot, South Long Street, Williamsville. Please attend the many events offered at the Depot.

Another “Jewel” the historic on-going reconstruction of the 1911 BR&P Orchard Park Depot. This is an example of perseverance at it’s finest. Years of dedication by the WNYRHS Orchard Park Committee have resulted in a funded high-quality reconstruction of many elements of the Depot, driveways and grounds. A movie was shot on site before major construction was started and another was shot part way thru this reconstruction. The second movie company built the Ladies Waiting Room Central Bench from the original drawings – magnificent, heartwarming – it fills the room with life. Next the Depot Committee found and contracted with a craftsman to build the Men’s Waiting Room Central Bench to match. Then the Committee lead by Gary Ludwig installed and finished the fine oak bench in place adding life to that room. That is just the tip of the ice burg. Director Jim Slominski has spearheaded years of grant writing and with the Depot Committees undying community involvement a spark lite a fire of support. Events, donations, meetings with the B&PRR and the Rails to Trails Organization, recognition within the community, support by the government of the Village of Orchard Park and The Beiler Family have resulted in the replacing of foundations and post supporting the platform and over hanging roofs of the 110-year-old Depot. Reclaiming and relaying of the original paver bricks, painting, professional cleaning, replacing driveways and paving are all only a part of what has been accomplished. Refinishing of the depot floors have been completed. Replacing the freight house loading dock is planned. The tile roofs are the next major project that needs attention. Many events have been held and more are set to take place at this Jewel of the Orchard Park Community. Come appreciate what has been preserved.

The Heritage Discovery Center, 100 Lee Street Buffalo, the newest addition to WNYRHS has made strong strides in establishing a group of Historical Societies, groups and museums. HDC is home to The Steel Plant Museum, The WNYRHS Museum, The Buffalo Light House Society, The Nickle Plate Road Historical and Technical Society, The Erie-Lackawanna Historical Society, BIGS – The Buffalo Irish Genealogy Society and The Buffalo Geological Society. Open hours are 10-2 Tuesday, Thursday and 10-4 Saturday for the Steel Plant Museum and the WNYRHS Museum and store. BIGS, Buffalo Irish Genealogy Society Research Library by appointment. Go to their Websites for more information.

HDC also archives 10 of thousands railroad employee records, maps, photos, slides, films, books as well as tons of railroad artifacts. Rolling stock, signals, baggage carts and a Fairmont Inspection car & trailer are on site. Arrangements are being made to purchase one mile of 110 lb. track with plans for it to be laid so we can move our other rolling stock to one location where we can control its care and restoration.

All of this takes manpower. That is where you step up. This is your railroad historical society.

Another part of preservation is facing the reality that we can not do it alone nor can we save everything. For more than two years your Board of Directors have been negotiating with the Medina Railroad Museum. Our joint goals are to preserve this fleet, to keep these six NYC passenger coaches from the “Empire State Limited” in Western New York as a matching set, to continue to make these historic cars available to the Western New York public.

All cost of operation (insurance, airbrake inspection) maintenance (windows, seat covers, generators) and up grading as required was the responsibility Medina. This contract was never enforced. WNYRHS supplied the manpower and paid this cost ever since the fleet was leased to Medina Railroad Museum. The rental funds received by WNYRHS from trips run by the Medina Railroad Museum were insufficient to upgrade the cars to the level required by todays non railfan public.

Your WNYRHS, like many other organizations, volunteer pool is stretched thin. Our hands on work force have aged. We can no longer do the physical things that we would love to do. Filling a “Car Committee” to maintain and man the NYC fleet in Medina was not happening, it has been left to just a few and they just cannot do the heavy work anymore. Funding the operation, maintenance and upgrading within a lease agreement was not moving forward. Our goal of preservation of these historic cars in Western New York was best achieved by Medina Railroad Museum becoming the owner / operator. WNYRHS sold these six NYC passenger cars to the Medina Railroad Museum for \$350,000 effective July 1, 2021.

WNYRHS will continue to work with The Medina Railroad Museum, other Historical Societies and interested parties in preserving our Heritage. I repeat “All of this takes manpower. That is where you step up. This is your railroad historical society.” There are great things ahead and as we begin to put the pandemic behind us and return to “normal”, I ask you to stick with us and renew your membership in the Society if not already done.

Thank you for your continued support of the Society. See you at the Train Show on February 26th & 27th at the Fairgrounds. Proud to Serve You, Caryl Ashley Youngers President, WNYRHS



MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM 2022



Become a member of the Western New York Railway Historical Society

Renewal Membership _____ New Membership _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Age _____ Occupation _____

**Email _____ @ _____

Regular \$25 _____ Regular Plus \$40 _____ Life \$300 _____ Corporate \$100 _____

Family: \$25 Regular dues plus \$5 for each additional family member

Family Life: \$300 Life dues plus \$50 for each additional family member

Family Member's Names _____, _____, _____

**** Please add \$5 to Membership fee if you wish to receive the Newsletter by Mail**

Newsletter Mail Fee \$ _____ Total Membership Enclosed \$ _____

Send all payments of dues and donations payable to:

WNYRHS, Inc., 100 Lee Street Buffalo, NY 14210

I want to be contacted about volunteering. My interests are: _____

Please consider a donation to your favorite project. The WNYRHS is a fully qualified 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductable! You may designate the fund to which you wish to donate.

2021 Fund Drive \$ _____ Orchard Park Depot Fund \$ _____ Caboose Fund \$ _____

Locomotive Fund \$ _____ Williamsville Depot Fund \$ _____ Museum Fund \$ _____

Or pay by Credit Card

Name as it appears on card: _____

Card Number _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date _____

CSV Code (3 digits on back of card) _____

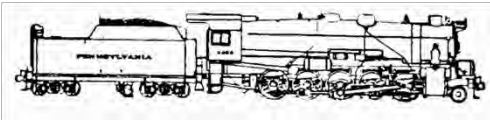
Signature _____ Date _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____



**Western New York
Railway Historical Society, Inc.**

“Preserving our Railway Heritage”

100 Lee Street Buffalo, NY 14210



Officers

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Trustees

Caryl Youngers	Marty Visciano	Paul Mayer	Barbara Owens	Joe Kocsis Jr.	Steve Kocsis
James Slominski	Ed Patton	Don Owens	Devan Lawton	Cynthia Timmel	Art Toale
Mark Lewandowski	Adam Puchalski	Bob Snyder			

Chairpersons

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The Western New York Railway Historical Society, Inc., 100 Lee Street, Buffalo, NY 14210 is a local organization. The Society is a fully qualified organization under 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations to the Society are tax deductible. Membership in New York State's largest Railway Historical Society is open to all those with a sincere interest in preserving our railroad heritage. Write to Membership Secretary, 100 Lee Street, Buffalo, NY 14210. Regular membership entitles you to name badge, membership certificate, Railway Flyer Publication, invitations to "members only" events, right to vote and hold office, discounts on society publications, and advance notice of events. The Railway Flyer is published six times a year by the Western New York Railway Historical Society, Inc. Web Address: www.wnyrhs.com Submissions: caryl@bellaterragreenhouse.com