

Number 208

September 2020

A bi-monthly electronic official newsletter of the PRRT&HS published for the purpose of disseminating information on current issues and events pertaining to the Society's and Chapter's operations and administration as well as other information of interest about the PRR.

**Editor – Pauletta Ader** 

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Not for sale.

If you have a submission for the November E-news PLEASE forward it to me by October 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Pauletta Ader Editor of the E-news. <u>pauletta.ader@yahoo.com</u>

NOTICE: 2020 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE ASAP! We are implementing a new renewal process for 2021. The 2021 Renewal period begins December 1<sup>st</sup>. Because of the conversion process, 2020 renewals after October 7<sup>th</sup> will cause a lot of extra work. Please do NOT mail in an early 2021 renewal.

If you would like the PRRT&HS E-news to come via your email. Please sign up according to the instructions in the box above. Any questions please contact me, <u>pauletta.ader@yahoo.com</u>

# **IN THIS ISSUE**

## **MAJOR HEADLINES!**

It may not seem like much is going on since the cancellation of the 2020 annual meeting, but actually quite a bit has been going on behind the scenes. Time for some announcements!

#### VIRTUAL PRR DAY – November 7<sup>th</sup>!

The Board of Directors and the 2020 annual meeting team were very disappointed to have to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting at the Penn Stater. For a while we hoped to reschedule the meeting, but as the pandemic continued, and the health data emerged concerning populations most at risk, it became obvious an in-person meeting of our membership was not viable. Several directors and volunteers have stepped up to schedule a day of virtual presentations to help quench our member's thirst for knowledge about the PRR. More details on page 3.

#### > 2020 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING – Completed September 26th

Legally we are required to conduct an annual business meeting. Because of Covid, an inperson meeting was not possible, so members were sent a letter of notification and proxy card about a month ago. Enough proxy's were received to establish a quorum, so the meeting requirement was satisfied, and the results are tabulated on page 4. The board thanks the members for the strong response.

#### > NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM AND WEB SITE – December 1<sup>st</sup>

For several years the directors have been evaluating options and requirements for a new web site that would also address our need to streamline our internal administrative processes, while providing more value to our members. We started that process late last fall and it will be on-line starting December 1<sup>st</sup>. The most immediate impact is that members will each create their own account on the new web site, and you will be able to renew your membership from that account. Many more features will be coming. Details and a call for Volunteers are provided on page 5.

#### Regular News Items/Reports:

- > MEMBERSHIP
- > STATION AND ARCHIVES
- > NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- **FEATURE CHAPTER**
- > TRIVIA
- > PRRT&HS ADVERTISING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

## VIRTUAL PRR DAY – November 7, 2020 – Save the Date!

The PRR T&HS is planning a *virtual* PRR Day on November 7, 2020, through zoom, rather than traveling for an in-person meeting.

Thanks to Auburn University, we will be able to host presentations on the history of the PRR and modeling the PRR by experienced speakers.

There will be no registration fee, but you will need to register in advance, since the zoom account limits participation to 300.

*Registration information will be provided* soon, on our current web site, and through this e-mail list.

Some presenters may grant the Society permission to record their presentation. We are considering options to preserve these presentations.

The schedule is not finalized, but we have commitments for the following presentations:

Title	Speaker
Transporting Transformers-Westinghouse Sharon Plant	Rob Bennett
From PRR to SEPTA: How to Operate a Commuter Service and Get	Albert Churella
Someone Else to Pay for It	
Modeling the PRR prewar Hopper Fleet	John Frantz
The PRR in 1946 and 1947 - Photographs of Wayne Brumbaugh	Doug Nelson
Altoona Station, Logan House, and FG Tower	Claus Schlund
Plan Big, Build Small(er): Prototypical Layout Planning for Flexibility	Angela Sutton
Modeling the Pennsy in the Monongahela Valley: 2020 Update	Dave Wilson

We greatly appreciate the efforts of the presenters to support this event!

So, save the date!

## **ANNUAL PRRT&HS BUSINESS MEETING:**

## **COMPLETED September 26, 2020**

In early September a letter was sent to all members describing the legal requirement to conduct a business meeting in 2020. A quorum is required for such a meeting, but a meeting by Proxy would not support any member interaction. So the board decided that only issues that required resolution in 2020 would be presented – all other issues would be held until the 2021 annual meeting in Columbus Ohio, which we still hope to conduct.

The members voted on the following:

Director elections. Formation of a new chapter in Altoona. Dissolution of the Middle division chapter.

1,410 Proxy's were received before the meeting commenced at 10:03 am CDT on September 26<sup>th</sup>. President Steve Staffieri presided over the meeting.

The results follow:

Frank Napoleon board m	nember
vote for	1369
vote against	9
vote abstained	33
total	1411
Tim Garner board member	er
vote for	1370
vote against	11
vote abstained	30
total	1411
Vote to approve Altoona	Works chapter
In favor	1352
against	11
abstained	48
total	1411
Vote for dissolution of Mid	ddle Division Chapter
in favor	1301
against	61
abstained	49
total	1411

Our thanks to the members for the strong response. We greatly look forward to an annual meeting just outside Columbus, Ohio next May!

## September PRRT&HS e-News IT Report

by Dave Evans, Director and Web Master

Three topics this month:

- > New Web Site and Member on-line renewal process page 5
- > Delays on Val Map distribution page 9
- > Improving our ability to organize and execute future PRRT&HS volunteer projects

## New Web Site and Member on-line Renewal Process Coming this Fall!

While we have been quiet about the society's new on-line capabilities for some time, it is not because of a lack of effort. In fact, work began in earnest in the summer of 2019 after an initial meeting at the Annual meeting in Lancaster. Over the previous two years we had identified a large number of improvements necessary to minimize volunteer efforts to administer the society, while providing capabilities that will truly be valuable to our members, and hopefully recruit new members. The effort looked truly daunting for a volunteer organization. Many had pointed out the much-improved web sites of other Railroad historical societies, but in almost every case the sites did not specifically address member needs, nor even recognize individual members.

The list of requirements made it very clear that developing our own system would be a mistake. A significant effort was conducted last winter to evaluate a number of commercially available software packages for managing organization membership and services. Several packages had a surprising amount of capability at a modest price. Because member outreach these days occurs almost entirely over the internet, such systems typically require very tight integration with the organization's web site and e-store. Privacy laws now being applied to the internet, along with increasing financial transaction security requirements place additional requirements on a new system such that it would be very difficult to achieve and maintain compliance on our own.

By April the IT team was ready to recommend a specific system for implementation in time for the 2021 member renewal cycle. The society's board of directors concurred, and the team has been working hard at the core capabilities since then. These core capabilities deal with member management and financial systems integration. As of the end of August the team has logged around 1,000 volunteer hours to identify, select, and now implement the new system. The core capabilities are well in-hand and we are confident we will have a new renewal web site in place by December first, when the 2021 renewal process will begin.

➢ If you have not renewed for 2020, please do so as soon as possible − late renewals will complicate our efforts to load the current membership into the new system.

Please do not submit any 2021 renewals until you receive the 2021 renewal letter. Renewing online after December 1<sup>st</sup> will be easier than current processes, and will save our limited volunteer manpower a lot of work compared to logging paper renewals. Thank-you in advance for your patience. We plan to have at least some of the content from our old web site ported over, along with some new content. We also hope to have the new e-store on line on January 1, 2021 (on-line renewal processes will be available December 1<sup>st</sup>.) But there are many additional capabilities our new system will support along the lines of social media integration, electronic newsletters, on-line calendar and news feeds, and many others.

On the next page we show a notional home page – just to showcase system capabilities. The final web site will probably be different – I doubt our society President will let me keep the T1 as the only home page photo (And for you technical types, it will likely be "responsive", working on desktops, tablets and smart phones!)

### **Recruiting Volunteers to Help**

The new system has a tremendous set of capabilities, so we are seeking volunteers with a variety of interests and skill sets as applied in a modern IT environment to help out. The good news is that programming is not required. The system has many tools for developing capabilities without requiring software coding and database management experience. The more important experience is evaluating how to best provide information to our members, and then working through the process, logic and details to make it happen. We particularly need help from people with experience in social media management, electronic communications, and channel content (such as a possible YouTube channel). The late Greg Martin often related how the fellowship offered by a historical society is a key feature that provides value to its members, and we want to leverage the new system to enhance fellowship among our members.

If you want to volunteer, e-mail me at <u>devansprr@gmail.com</u> so we can discuss finding a match for your skills and our tasks. BTW, we have no illusions that the additional capabilities need to be up and running by December 1<sup>st</sup>. We expect periodic releases of new capabilities through next spring.

One of the key capabilities of the new system is its sysadmin and security features. This feature allows individual portions of the system to be assigned "coordinators" who can take responsibility of that portion of the system's content and operation. This will enable us to distribute the work load to a significant number of people such that no one person will be overloaded with too much responsibility and work. So for you potential volunteers, do not worry that you will get stuck with more effort than you can provide. We can tailor your scope to a portion of the system that suits your skills, interests, and availability (some tasks will be a one-time effort, others may be a recurring effort – monthly or yearly.)

#### Member Logir

Z

#### Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society

Home New Member Signup

#### Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society



# Preserving the heritage of "The Standard Railroad of the World" for future generations

The Society's mission is to further scholarly learning and interest in the Pennsylvania Railroad (PRR) and its predecessor companies by stimulating and encouraging the collecting, researching, recording and preserving of all technical, historical and practical information concerning the PRR and to make this information available to interested persons. And to further the accurate modeling of the PRR so that future generations may better appreciate and understand the company.



#### Upcoming Events

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- SEP 2020 Business Meeting via 26 Proxy
- MAY 2021 Annual Meeting May 13-15, 2021 Columbus, OH

#### News

#### **RECENT ARTICLES**

New Web Site Coming - December 1, 2020

The new PRRT&HS web site will bring a new member account capability with much improved renewal features, a new e-store, and an ever increasing amount of content Aud 15 2020

#### The PRRT&HS on Facebook



We hope to have many of the capabilities on-line before next year's annual meeting. One of the first tasks will be to set up on-line registration for the 2021 annual meeting – we think we can easily have that capability on-line by next February. In the past the registration process has been the most time-consuming effort for annual meeting volunteers, and typically the least enjoyable. This should reduce the workload of future annual meeting committees.

The other big improvement is that the new web site service provider will provide professionally staffed on-line and telephone support to our members if they encounter trouble with the web site and on-line renewal processes. So our volunteers do not need to worry about being stuck with providing "tech support" ③

## **Timeline and Process for Members**

For the membership, this means we will provide a more complete description of the new system and the renewal process in the November e-News. For members who have provided us their email address(es), you will also receive one or more e-amils from us describing the renewal process and the web site URL to use sometime in mid-to-late November (probably just before the system goes on-line.)

One big change you will notice when you go online to renew your membership for 2021 will be that it will no longer be done through the e-store. Instead, you will renew from within your own password-protected member account, which you will activate on your first visit to the new website. This will have the added benefit of providing you with access to the members-only areas of our website, which will contain exciting members-only content, e-Store discounts, and even e-Store items that are available only to members. Over time we will add additional features and capability that will make having your own account even more useful to each member. You will also have the option to opt-in, or opt-out, of various e-mail distributions and other event notifications.

So watch for the November e-News for a more extensive description of the new web site and online renewal process.

## A Reminder:

If you have not renewed for 2020, please do so as soon as possible – late renewals will complicate our efforts to load the current membership into the new system.

Please do not submit any 2021 renewals until you receive the 2021 renewal letter. Renewing online after December 1<sup>st</sup> will be easier than current processes, and will save our limited volunteer manpower a lot of work compared to logging paper renewals. Thank-you in advance for your patience.

## **Digital Distribution of Valuation Maps**

I need to apologize to those I promised would be able to purchase digitized valuation maps sometime in 2019. While relatively inexpensive Val map distribution remains an objective of the society, we have to set priorities based on our limited supply of volunteer hours, and the requests from our members.

The delay in completing this effort is due to three factors:

1) We have determined that when considering the number of members who would benefit from our current volunteer initiatives; the new web site, new e-store, and this November's virtual meet each provide benefit to a much larger portion of our membership compared to the relatively small group of members that have expressed an interest in obtaining digitized Val maps in volume (copies of individual Val maps can be ordered from the Archives, although Covid has slowed Archive operations for the time being.)

2) In addition, current ordering processes would need to be entirely manual (more volunteer time consumed) to both collect payments and fulfill digital Val map orders. The new e-store will greatly simplify parts of the digital Val map fulfillment process, so delaying the Val map effort until the new e-store is on-line should reduce the effort to make digital Val maps available. It may even be possible to do digital delivery using the new e-store, which would enable immediate delivery without any volunteer effort. (Yeah!)

3) While we regret the continued delays to the digital Val Map distribution effort, we hope to have something available before the Annual Meeting in Columbus. That will depend in-part on how many volunteer hours we secure for the new web site and e-store over the next four months.

Hence the call for volunteers for those efforts.

Note that high-volume digital Val Map purchases will likely be restricted to members only.

#### Volunteering to support RR Historical Society projects - a Personal Note

For the past five years or so there have been informal discussions among individuals responsible for the operation of quite a few Railroad Historical societies. After a number of late-night sessions at several Railroad Prototype Modeler meets, a group of us started a special interest group on groups.io specifically to share lessons learned on managing such societies. There are many challenges facing Railroad Historical societies, some common to many, others unique. But a universal concern was recruiting and retaining volunteers, and providing them the tools to do their tasks efficiently. Many societies have burned out key volunteers by overwhelming them with minutiae and tedious tasks. That is a major reason we elected to pursue such an ambitious upgrade to our on-line systems – we need to make our volunteers more productive, especially at administrivia (and we have found that PRRT&HS may be the second largest Railroad Historical Society in the US, so we have the second biggest administrative workload.) As one long-serving Railroad historical society president said – we need to have our volunteers providing valuable services to our members, not completing paper work.

The new system will do that for the PRRT&HS, and with its tools to help manage volunteer efforts, we expect we will have the tools available to attack other society objectives much more efficiently.

There are many projects the society would like to accomplish – hopefully we will have the tools to make volunteer service more productive and enjoyable by next summer. We are using these new tools during system development this fall, so we will know what capabilities they offer, and how to use them.

One of the features of the new system is a blog capability for officers and key volunteers – expect some blog content on volunteer efforts from me this winter on how we can expand our volunteer efforts, and make them productive and enjoyable.

Personally, I am eagerly looking forward to the day this fall when I will never need to edit another prrths.com html file, nor tinker with our current, hopelessly misconfigured e-store 🕲

We are making progress! Look for it in December and throughout 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Evans

## Now back to your Regularly Scheduled Reports:

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

As of Sept. 6, 2020, the PRRT&HS membership for 2020 is as follows:					
Regular	1958				
Sustaining	310				
Contributing	86				
International	27				
Keystone	142				
Total	2557				
Non-renewals	238 Renewal Rate	2,398/2,636=91.0%			
Keystone mailings include 10 gratis copies (museums, libraries, etc.)					
The number of new members for 2020 is 159.					

Submitted by Andy Hart

#### STATION AND ARCHIVE

#### Station:

Recently we had a busy day. Amtrak picked up 2, and dropped off 3. The average has been 0 off and 1 on. This week there were 2 days with no one each way.

#### Archives:

Official Archiving sessions have resumed on a strictly individual voluntary basis with precautions. Sessions are held monthly beginning on the second Sunday and running thru whenever. Usually Thursday. In the absence of Charlie Woodward, scheduling duties have been handled by Charlie Horan.

Sept. 20, we had a researcher from Winchester VA come and spend the day looking up information on passenger cars.

Submitted by Rich Ader, Director and Station Manager

#### NOTES FROM THE BOARD

#### **Railroad Heritage Days**

Railroad Heritage Days has been cancelled due to the Covid virus.



Announcement and photo submitted by Joe Acri, Director

#### PRRPro

Announcement for the PRRPro group

The PRR Project group (<u>https://groups.io/g/PRRPro</u>) will be using the period from July 1 to December 31, 2020 to "catch up" on projects that have already been done. That means that any project that the group has already done is appropriate (note: anyone can do any project at any time!) In particular, the goal is that WIPs (works in progress) or UFOs (unfinished objects) left from previous projects be completed during this time. The projects that have been done by the group include:

Browp	meraaer			
1)	F30, F30A, F30D, F30E flat cars	October 2003	message 47	
2)	R50b express reefers	January 2004	message 380	
3)	X29 box car	May 2004	message 630	
4)	G22 gondolas	July 2004	message 866	
5)	P70 passenger cars	October 2004	message 1280	
6)	Sharknose diesels	January 2005	message 1522	
7)	I1 (2-10-0) steam locos	April 2005	message 1731	
8)	H21/H22 hoppers	February 2006	message 2364	
9)	N5 (family) cabin cars	June 2006	message 2663	
10)	FM/FGR/FGRA flat cars	October 2006	message 2889	
11)	Interlocking Towers	January 2007	message 3034	
12)	Heavyweight sleepers	April 2007	message 3278	
13)	X31, X31A, X31B, X31C box cars	August 2007	message 3622	
14)	TM8/AC&F Type 11 tank cars	April 2008	message 4209	
15)	H8/H9/H10 steam locos	July 2008	message 4352	
16)	FGE/BRE/WFE/NX wood reefers	March 2009	message 4812	
17)	GP7 and GP9 diesels	January 2010	message 5457	
18)	Wreck Derricks	July 2010	message 5804	
19)	Wood Cabin Cars	June 2011	message 6311	
20)	XL class boxcars and related	January 1, 2012	message 6583	
21)	Coaling towers	June 11, 2013	message 7090	
22)	B60, B60A, B60B	January 1, 2014	message 7309	
23)	F22/23 flat cars	June 1, 2014	message 7673	
24)	Signals	January 1, 2015	message 7961	
25)	GLA Hoppers	June 1, 2015	message 8276	
26)	Falls/Colonial mid-train lounges	January 1, 2016	message 8476	
27)	X26 boxcars	July 1, 2016	message 8786	
28)	GR/GRA gondola	January 1, 2017	message 9026	
29)	PRR Tool House	July 1, 2017	message 9295	
30)	F28, F29, F33 flat cars	January 1, 2018	message 9301	
31)	X23 and related cars	July 1, 2018	message 9483	
32)	N8 cabin cars	January 1, 2019	message 9686	
33)	X37, X38 boxcars	July 1, 2019	message 9813	
34)	H25 hoppers	January 1, 2020	message 9922	
We look forward to seeing the progress that folks make on these projects!				

We look forward to seeing the progress that folks make on these projects! Submitted by Bruce Smith, Director

#### **FEATURE CHAPTER** IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE YOUR CHAPTER IN A FUTURE EDITION PLEASE CONTACT <u>pauletta.ader@yahoo.com</u> editor of the E-news

### <u>TRIVIA</u>

Who succeeded Alexander Cassatt as president of the Pennsylvania Railroad?

Answer to July Trivia question.....

Samuel Rae succeeded Cassatt as the 9<sup>th</sup> President of the PRR. He was born in Hollidaysburg, Pa on September 21, 1855. He joined the PRR in 1871 and he was the President 1913-1925.



Submitted by Pauletta Ader Photo from Lewistown Station Archives

#### September Trivia Question

#### What are these?



Photo submitted by Pauletta Ader

### **RECENT PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE PRRT&HS**

These books can be purchased over the phone by calling Shuman Heritage Printing at 717-751-0100; please have your credit card ready. They can also be purchased online from the e-Store located on the PRRT&HS website at <a href="http://www.prrths.com">www.prrths.com</a>

#### FIRST CLASS TO OUR NATION'S CAPITOL - LIBERTY LIMITED and CAPITOL LIMITED by Frank A. Wrabel

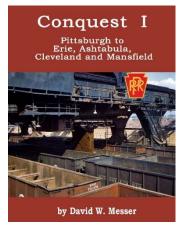


Beginning in 1925, PRR and B&O stepped up their train amenities to capture luxury service patrons travelling between Washington and Chicago. Their competition soon became a war that lasted 32 years, through the Depression, WWII, and the heady Postwar period. This book captures this story of the two railroads' optimism and final resignation to changing market demographics. Author Frank Wrabel tells the story of this glorious fight. *First Class to Our Nation's Capitol* is a 186-page hardbound book containing approximately 375 illustrations, many in color.

Member price is \$50.00 each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

Non-Member price is \$75.00 each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

#### CONQUEST 1 - PITTSBURGH TO ERIE, ASHTABULA, CLEVELAND & MANSFIELD by David W. Messer



Continuing the rich tradition of his Triumph series books, celebrated author David W. Messer has teamed with the PRRT&HS to offer Conquest 1, documenting the history of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Lake Division physical plant. This includes the network of PRR lines radiating from Pittsburgh northwest to Erie, Ashtabula, Cleveland and Mansfield from 1848 to the present day.

Conquest 1, a 240-page hardbound book contains 500 illustrations, many in color, and includes 12 large maps located in a rear pocket. Member price is **\$65.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

Non-Member price is **\$80.00** each, + shipping and tax (where applicable).

### **CHAPTER MEETINGS**

#### Support your local chapter - become a member. Please contact Editor if any of the following information is incorrect.

#### ARIZONA CHAPTER

Contact: Sec/Treas. Phil Anderson 480-756-4359 <u>ma393@aol.com</u> LINES WEST – BUCKEYE REGION CHAPTER

Contact: Al Doddroe at: adoddroe@earthlink.net

### **CHICAGO TERMINAL CHAPTER**

Contact: President Marv Cadwell at: <u>ld\_mlc43@comcast.net</u>

#### **GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA**

Contact Jim Winslow at: <u>G5s472@aol.com</u>1872 Lakeview Drive, Zeeland, MI 49464

### LONG ISLAND

P.O. Box 5827 Bay Shore, NY 11706

See https://www.facebook.com/licprrths/ for meeting information and other updates.

Secretary: Kelly Cotter

Meetings held at the Oyster Bay Museum

Contact: <u>PRRTHSLIC@gmail.com</u>

#### NEW ENGLAND

Contact, Tim Garner at: <u>t.a.garner@verizon.net</u> or write to New England Chapter PRRT&HS, c/o Tim Garner, Secretary, PO Box 624, Marlborough, MA 01752-0624.

Website: <u>http://prrths-ne.org/</u>

### NORTHERN CENTRAL CHAPTER

President: Joe Ioele Chapter web site: <u>https://www.facebook.com/northerncentralchapterprrths/</u> PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Contact President Jim Trunzo at: jetrunzo@gmail.com

### PENN-TEXAS CHAPTER

Contact Brady McGuire at: bradyprrm1a@cableone.net

### PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

Contact: President Gus Minardi, at augustominardi@cs.com Philadelphia Chapter website is: <u>http://www.philaprrths.com</u>

### PITTSBURGH CHAPTER

Contact: Newsletter Editor Don Coulter 412-372-4221 <u>donald.coulter3@verizon.net</u> WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

Contact: Paul Schulz at: <u>paulschulz@verizon.net</u>

PLEASE CONTACT CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVE FOR MEETING DATES AND TIMES

WEBSITE www.prths.cm

