



# **LAUREL LINES**

## *Celebrating 51 Years!*



Vol 52, Issue 5 - May , 2025

A PUBLICATION OF THE LACKAWANNA AND WYOMING VALLEY RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC

Norfolk Southern 11Z passes through downtown Sunbury on the Historic Pennsylvania Railroad Buffalo Line.  
Photo taken by Alex Strausser in March 2025



The Chapter Meeting will be held May 8th, 2025  
in the Iron Skillet Restaurant at the  
Petro Truck Stop in Dupont, PA.

Meeting at 7 PM, program to follow.

**This Month's Program:**  
Dan Armitage and Pete Bellisario  
will present  
**"THE KID FROM FREEVILLE"**

## **Mission Statement:**

Through fellowship, community and educational outreach to affect rail preservation and appreciation of railroad history focusing on Northeastern Pennsylvania

## Presidents Message -

After a "rainout" for the April 5<sup>th</sup> work session at the Moscow Train Station, the clean-up of the tree branches etc. was accomplished. Tom Nemeth wielding his chainsaw and Roy Pauli as his side-kick, cut up branches and cut down one tree the next day. Then, on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>, a crew gathered to rake and clean up all the branches & pieces. (See photos)

**Thanks to all who helped!** Now the grounds are ready for grass cutting season.

Unfortunately, the Mother's Day excursions planned by the Iron Horse Society (IHS) has been cancelled. Addition excursions with the IHS are in the planning stages, so keep tuned for details. Once we know the dates and times, we will need volunteers to prepare the station ahead of the excursions as well as on the excursion days.

Paul Hart is stepping down from mailing the calendar orders via internet or mail (one of the many "jobs" he performs for the chapter). He has been doing this particular task since the early 80's. A big THANK YOU for his years of calendar duty. Norm Barrett has stepped up to handle this part of calendar sales.

We have two upcoming activities, so mark your calendars. The first is the Adirondack Limited Excursion on July 12<sup>th</sup> Tickets will be for sale until June 1<sup>st</sup> 2025. (See order form on pg. 6). The second is our Chapter Picnic at the Moscow Station on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>. Details are still being worked out with information available at future chapter meetings and future editions of *Laurel Lines*. This is a family friendly event and guests are welcome, however, seating is limited.

**Vee Pauli, President**

## HUMOR ME

How does a cucumber become a pickle?

—  
Well, it's a jarring experience.

## "RAIL WORKERS READY TO STRIKE"

From *The Albany Times Union*, May 11th, 1943  
**Submitted by Bob Young**

"Committees from Mayfield, Pa., Yard, Norwich and Middletown, N. Y., representing the employees protective association, comprising employees of New York, Ontario and Western Railroad, will confer Wednesday at Hancock, N. Y., to set a date for a general walkout on the railroad, it was announced last night following a meeting of the association at Childs, Pa.

The alleged failure of the company to comply with pay boosts authorized by the railroad employment board 16 months ago was given as the reason for the threatened walkout."

## Excerpt from *The Scranton Times*

*Submitted by Mike "Breezy" Bischak*



"Lackawanna County's Electric City Trolley Museum, 300 Cliff St., Scranton, will offer the Trolley Through Time, special "then and now" excursions on the historic Laurel Line, on April 26 at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Motormen John Sheerin, left, and Bob Young will host the informative journeys. They will share historic images of scenes along the line and visit "Little Virginia," the former trolley station in Scranton's Minooka neighborhood.

Tickets cost \$15 and may be purchased by calling 570-963-6590. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Car 505 restoration project."



## Minutes of the April 13th Monthly Chapter Meeting at 7pm Iron Skillet Restaurant, Dupont, PA

**President Vee Pauli** calls the meeting to order, requesting a moment of silence for a long-time member, Gayle Hamilton who passed away this past March 15th at age 91. Gayle and her Husband volunteered at Moscow for many years. Her last stint was the Holiday Trains in 2019. Rest in Peace. Following was the Pledge to the Flag.

Now that the March issue of *Laurel Lines* was mailed, a motion was made by Ed Koehler Jr to approve these minutes as appearing in the February issue, 2nd by Tony Kolativa. Motion passed. A motion was then made to approve the March meeting minutes as appearing in the April *LL*, made by Scott Barrett, 2nd by Rich Vacula. Motion passed.

**Treasurer Zech** was called on to make his report known. The list of bills and income was read for both the General and Special Projects accounts. Motion made by Ed Koehler Jr, and 2nd by Mike Bischak. Motion passed.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Moscow Station: Norm Barrett** reports he has nothing to report! Now that's different.

**Calendar Committee: Jim Kilcullen** reports that captions for the 2026 version are being worked on as the digitized proofs have been returned by the firm that enhances the photos each year. Paul Hart was recognized and informed the body that he is stepping away from the mailing of calendars. Having done that and more since 1982, he feels that it is time for someone else to move up.

A question was asked what happens to old calendars that were not sold or sent to members. The answer: Those calendars are sold at Moscow and Chapter Founding member Carl Packer takes them to train shows. Anyone want some? **We got 'em!**

**Station Director Roy Pauli** was not his usual self and missed the meeting tonight, however, he did send a report by stating the work session that was scheduled had to be canceled account weather.

Notwithstanding, member Tom Nemeth arrived with his chainsaw and he and Roy cut some trees and

branches. By time you read this, you will have missed another work session to take place on April 13th at 2:00pm. Roy will report on this in May.

As to the vandalism that was captured by the security cameras, Vee and Roy appeared before the Magistrate, as did the young boys that did admit their guilt. Their parents were also there. Restitution has yet to be decided. The parents apologized, however, the perpetrators did not.

**Excursion Committee: Ken Kertesz** reports that the excursion "Ride the D&H Again" will occur on July 12, 2025. Busses for the train at Corinth, NY will depart from the Taylor Hose Company #1 located on Union Street at 7:00am. On arrival at Corinth, we will board the train where your selected lunches will be distributed. If you decline the menu offered, we are deducting an amount from the overall cost.

The bus ride, train ride, and lunch is \$149.00. An option to just ride the train and drive yourself is available by reviewing it on the Chapter website: [www.lwvrhs.org](http://www.lwvrhs.org)

The lunch option on the **OLD** flyer is incorrect - Contact Ken Kertesz at 570.814.6032 or [kkertesz@comcast.net](mailto:kkertesz@comcast.net) for up to date information. ***As of this writing, the "Observer" car has been sold out as well as the Locomotive seat.*** There are plenty of seats in the Dining Car and Coaches. There are a total of 250 seats, but many have already been sold.

Cut-off to order tickets either online or sending a check is June 1. This excursion will run about 4 hours with one photo run-by. Return to Taylor, PA is expected about 6:00pm.

**- UPDATED FLYER CAN BE FOUND ON PG. 6 -**

**Membership Director Paul Hart and Ken Kertesz** report that membership stands at 212 as of this evening. 20 members from 2024 did not renew, but we picked up several new members. As all members know, your membership includes an Annual Calendar and 11 issues of *Laurel Lines*. *Laurel Lines* newsletters were started shortly after the Chapter received its Charter in 1973. Calendars were started in 1982. There are 11 Chapter meetings each year, except for July.

**Chapter Picnics** were restarted last year, but were a staple until COVID. Before the picnic commences at Moscow Station, there is a brief meeting for those in attendance, then we generally have a presenter, then the -

food is served. This year, the Picnic will occur on August 17 at the Station. We must limit the attendance to a maximum of 45. Look for more details by June - this is on a first-come, first served basis.

**Steamtown Updates:** The train proposed to run on Mother's Day to the Station has been canceled for 2025. The Iron Horse Society offered no explanation. We can only hope there will be some other events that will take place that we can host at Moscow. Steamtown's plans are separate and apart from what the IHS plans. At present, we can only anticipate receiving 3 Holiday Trains that Steamtown will offer to us.

Last year, a train was dispatched to Moscow for their "Fair Event". This train is of no value to our Station, as the riders de-train from the opposite side and walk up to the Street Fair to enjoy all the vendors and varieties of foods there. The train then departs for a return to Steamtown after several hours. We certainly support all events that Moscow chooses to sponsor, but with limited opportunity - while the Board of Directors discussed this issue at length - we felt that opening the Station would yield little to no revenue for the Chapter. Getting merchandise up to the Fair gets quite involved and manning a booth there can prove to be problematic. In closing, we suggest that Chapter members ride the train from Steamtown, walk up to the street and support Moscow Borough. They have been very supportive of this Chapter and we are indebted to them for their unwavering support of this Chapter's ongoing progress.

The Chapter intends to attend the Steamtown Event on April 19, celebrating National Park Days. Unless you keep on top of NPS events, learning of this through *LL* will find that you missed the opportunity to participate.

**NRHS Advisory Council Representative Ed Fortuna**, reports that the Spring Regional meeting in Tennessee will not have him in attendance account a family function at the same time. Ed reports that the National Convention is in Lansing, MI which commences on the same day as our Excursion. The NRHS has announced that our 2 candidates, Eli Close and Alex Ferik will attend the 2025 Rail Camp in Delaware this year. Both young men have earned a partial scholarship to attend and the 50/50 drawing will cover the balance for both. Each student has a fee of \$1575.00 for the full week of instruction on all aspects of how a railroad functions.

Amtrak and the University of Delaware are the principal hosts for this event.

For every year this Chapter has sent a student to the Rail Camp, we have never burdened the parents with any cost to attend. We are proud of our relationship with the NRHS as well as the caliber of all our attendees through these many years. Several who attended did pursue a career in railroading. We hope that trend can continue.

**Laurel Lines Newsletter: Editor Katie Bischak** continues to provide excellence in journalism and is sending it to the printer each month on a timely basis. We had an issue with mailing labels this past February into March, and we are confident it has been rectified. As a standard procedure, all desired information of interest must be sent to Katie the week following the meeting. This allows her 1 week to compose the newsletter and forward to our printer. Roy and Vee continue to process the labels being affixed and sending them out via bulk mailing. It's then up to the Post Office, but they have been generally doing a great job as well. If you have any address changes or corrections, *please let us know!*

**Chapter Historian/Program Director Neil Weinberg** reports that our youngest and most energetic members, Eli Close, Alex Ferik, Robert DiMattio, and C.J. Boyko will offer "*Modern Railroading in NEPA*" this evening.

May's program will have "*The Kid from Freeville*", by Don Armitage and Pete Bellasario. This presentation regards a branch of the former Lehigh Valley RR that crossed over itself in Freeville, NY.

Our **Webmaster, Alex Strausser** stands ready to make your desired submissions come alive on the website. He is like the "Energizer Bunny", handling several tasks all at the same time with speed, accuracy and enthusiasm. Alex was one of our candidates who attended Rail camp in 2024 and he is pursuing a college curriculum in Railroad Technology at Penn State. Thank you Alex for all you do for our Chapter.

## OLD BUSINESS

As previously mentioned, there will not be a Mother's Day train from Steamtown, with no posted schedule for other trains on the SNHS website.



## NEW BUSINESS

Norm Barrett reported that Chapter Member Kevin Clum, who was a former Conductor on CP - "D&H" and briefly on NS, has had another setback. Kevin required a kidney transplant a few years ago and now has been diagnosed with cancer of his larynx. We encourage all members to send Kevin a get well card and let him know we're thinking about him. His address is:

**Kevin Clum**  
**260 Tinkerbrook Road**  
**Clifford Twp., PA 18421**

Vee asks in attendance: "What does the Easter Bunny get for making a basket? 2 points ... the same as anyone else".

In Attendance: 50! Motion to Adjourn at 7:49pm by - guess who - Joe Boshek.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
**Ken Kertesz - Secretary**



*- Save the Dates -*

**Chapter Excursion - July 12, 2025**  
*Find Details on Pg. 6*

**Chapter Picnic - August 17, 2025**  
*12:00 PM - 4:00 PM*  
*Limited to 45 Attendees*

## HUMOR ME

Why didn't the shrimp share?

—  
 Because he was shellfish.



**LEFT: The crew cleans up Moscow on Sunday, April 13th.**  
 L-R Ed Fortuna, Norm Barrett, Tom Nemeth, Scott Barrett,  
 Bob Young, Breezy Bischak, Vee Pauli and Roy Pauli.

Photo by Treena Bischak



**RIGHT: Treena Bischak & Tom Nemeth doing the dirty work!**

Photo by Vee Pauli



## *Ride the D&H Again on the Adirondack Limited*

*JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>*

Take a historic trip with 2 original D&H Alco RS-3's on the Saratoga, Corinth, & Hudson Railroad, located in Corinth, NY. This awesome, scenic excursion will roll through the beautiful Adirondack Mountains in old D&H territory. Enjoy the views from SC&H's Observation Car (8 seats available), Standard Coach, or Cab! (1 available). Tickets are available with options including bus transport to and from NY, or

without transportation (you are responsible). Tickets for this excursion also include a box lunch, choosing from either ham, turkey, or vegetarian options, drink, and snack. Those purchasing a bus ticket will depart from Taylor Hose Company #1, 614 Union St. and return there later in the evening.

Join the L&WV Chapter on a beautiful Summer excursion, while supporting our historic chapter as well as the SC&H! Any questions can be directed to Ken Kertesz ([kkertesz@comcast.net](mailto:kkertesz@comcast.net)) or Alex Strausser ([alexstrausser9@gmail.com](mailto:alexstrausser9@gmail.com)).



**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

L&WV RHS Chapter

**AND MAIL TO:**

30 Harford Avenue  
Shavertown, PA 18708-1243

**TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT**

<https://lwvrhs.org/>



**PLEASE FILL OUT AND INCLUDE THIS PORTION WITH CHECK OR MONEY ORDER**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$149**

**OR**

**Tickets:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$99**

Includes BUS TICKET to Corinth, NY  
Train ticket, box lunch

Includes train ticket & box lunch

**GRAZING BOX** \_\_\_\_\_ **ROAST BEEF** \_\_\_\_\_ **TURKEY SALAD** \_\_\_\_\_ **VEGGIE** \_\_\_\_\_

**OBSERVATION SEATING - ADD \$25.00 EACH ON TOP OF THE TICKET COST**

**1 LOCOMOTIVE CAB RIDE - ADD \$100.00 EXTRA ON TOP OF THE TICKET COST**

**NO LUNCH NEEDED? - DEDUCT \$12.00 OFF OF EACH TICKET COST**

**TOTAL INCLUDED:** \_\_\_\_\_





Thought it would be neat to include this old ad featuring 'Summer Cottons' that was within the same newspaper as the clip featured on pg. 2.

*What a throwback!*

*-Kat B.  
Editor*



**Vice President/Advisory Rep Ed Fortuna** Congratulates the Chapter's 2025 Rail 'Campers' for June 2025 at Wilmington, Delaware - Eli Close (light blue hoodie) and Alex Ferik (black jacket).

Ed would like to thank both the chapter members and NRHS Rail Camp for providing the funding for each of the boys to attend Railcamp 2025.



**STAY TUNED** for Next Month's *Laurel Lines*, where I take you inside a hidden gem of a Model Railroad! You do **NOT** want to miss this awesome find!  
*- Kat B., Editor*



**Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley  
Railway Historical Society, Inc.  
Chapter, National Railway  
Historical Society, Inc.  
P. O. Box 3452  
Scranton, PA 18505-0452**

**Non-Profit  
Organization  
PAID  
Scranton, PA  
Permit #245**

**Change Service Requested**

**DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

**L&WV CONTACTS**

**Vee Pauli - President (570) 344-9728  
Ed Fortuna - Vice President/ Nat. Representative  
[edfed243@aol.com](mailto:edfed243@aol.com)  
Ken Kertesz - Secretary  
[kkertesz@comcast.net](mailto:kkertesz@comcast.net) (570) 814-6032  
Paul Hart - Membership (570) 963-2090  
[prhrail@verizon.net](mailto:prhrail@verizon.net)  
Ed Zech - Treasurer/Chairman of Board  
(570) 347-5901 [zechedward4@gmail.com](mailto:zechedward4@gmail.com)  
Roy Pauli - Moscow Station Master  
(570) 344-9728  
Jim Kilcullen - Calendar Chair  
[educ123rr15@outlook.com](mailto:educ123rr15@outlook.com)  
Alex Strausser - Webmaster  
[alexstrausser9@gmail.com](mailto:alexstrausser9@gmail.com)  
Neil Weinberg - Historian  
[laurellines@gmail.com](mailto:laurellines@gmail.com)  
Kat Bischak - Editor of LL  
[kbischakphoto@gmail.com](mailto:kbischakphoto@gmail.com)**

**Laurel Lines is published monthly except for July by the  
Lackawanna and Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society,  
Inc. Chapter NHRS.**

**Visit us online : <http://www.lwvrhs.org>**

**MEMBERSHIP ADDRESS UPDATE**

Please check the address information on  
your mailing label. If any corrections need to  
be made now or if you change your address  
notify Ken Kertesz either via email  
([kkertesz@comcast.net](mailto:kkertesz@comcast.net)) or mail @  
30 Harford Ave., Shavertown, PA 18708-1243

**MAY 2025 VOLUME 52 ISSUE 5 LAUREL LINES - L&WV RHS**