LAUREL LINES

Celebrating America 250!

AMERICA 250

Vol 53, Issue 10 - November, 2026

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



Norfolk Southern #8118 at railfest 2026
Photo by William Dixon Jr.

The Chapter Meeting will be held November 12th, 2026 at the Iron Skillet Restaurant at the Petro Truck Stop in Dupont, PA.
Dinner is a-la-cart at 6:00 PM

Meeting at 7 PM, program to follow.

This Month's Program:

Ed Koehler Jr. will present
"One Enthusiast's Book Collection on the Pennsylvania Railroad"

Mission Statement:

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

Presidents Message -

We have had two events where chapter members represented the L&WVRHS to the public: Railfest in September, and the Lackawanna Historical Society's History Fair in October. Both events presented an opportunity to educate young and old about our rich railroading history. Special thanks are in order to those members who volunteered their time to promote the chapter.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it is time to reflect on our blessings, and I am forever thankful for all who so faithfully volunteer their time to support the chapter activities. This is when I make my annual plea for your help with the holiday trains to Moscow. **The dates are November 27th, 28th, & 29th, the Friday, Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving.** These trains are a major source of income to support the Moscow Station and require "*many hands to make the work light*". It is always a joy to see the faces of the children light up when the see Santa. Please consider helping for one, two or all three of the days. There will be a sign-up sheet at the November meeting, but if you can't attend the meeting, you can call Roy or me (570-344-9728) to volunteer.

A big thank you to all who have made contributions towards the holiday train wish list. Donations are still being accepted.

Vee Pauli, President

HUMOR ME

I was going to write a book on railroads but I lost my train of thought.

———————————————

I saw a book the other day that said "How toSolve 50% of All Your Problems".

So I bought two!

NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THE LACKAWANNA RR

***The Rockaway Record*, November 8th, 1938**
Submitted by Bob Young

"The contribution of the Lackawanna Railroad to the government's "Make Work" program for business revival will assume tangible form within a few days when it's new steam locomotives and freight cars, will be placed on exhibition.

"Examples of this new equipment, purchased several months ago at cost exceeding $4,250,000, will be placed on exhibition at Scranton, Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4, by the Lackawanna. Invitations will be extended to the general public, to local authorities, to college students and school children to inspect the equipment:

"The exhibitions are being arranged because the management of the railroad believes by presenting evidence that thousands of men and women have been reemployed, and will continue to be employed by the railroads and industries from which they buy equipment and supplies.

"The equipment purchased by the Lackawanna under the Public Works Program, included 27 steam locomotives designed by the mechanical experts of the railroad and is known as the Pocono type, five hundred 50-ton hopper cars, designed for coal and other bulk tonnage, and nine, hundred eighty-six wooden box cars converted to all-steel box cars at the Lackawanna's Keyser Valley shops at Scranton.

"The Pocono locomotives, among the fastest and the most powerful and fastest steam driven ever built for road service, known in mechanical circles as 4-8-4's, have four-wheel trucks ahead, eight driver wheels and four trailer trucks, The Poconos are designed to reduce atmospheric resistance to the minimum."

- Con't on page 4

Minutes of the October 8th Monthly Chapter Meeting at 7pm Iron Skillet Restaurant, Dupont, PA

President Vee Pauli opened the meeting in due form and proceeded to the Pledge to the Flag.

Vee sought a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2026 meeting as appearing in the October *Laurel Lines* newsletter. Motion by Ed Koehler, Jr, second by Scott Barrett. Motion passed.

Vee called on **Chapter Treasurer Ed Zech** to read a full report on income and expenses of the Chapter. Upon completion a motion was called for and made by Ed Koehler, Jr and second by Tony Kwiatiowski. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calendar Chairman Jim Kilcullen informed that all members should have received their 2027 Calendar via the US Mail. If you are reading this and have not received your copy, please check with Norm Barrett at: **normanbarrett248@gmail.com** or Secretary Ken Kertesz at: **kkertesz@comcast.net** who will cross reference the database.

Jim reports that the Committee will commence composing the 2028 Calendar. A theme regarding the year 1976 leading up to the Big Boy arrival this year is contemplated. The Committee is accepting pictures that are *"out of the ordinary."* You are reminded that all pictures must be to your credit or have permission from the framer for the Committee to use that photo.

2027 Membership: Ken Kertesz reminds all current members that the Chapter has no intention of mailing out invoices for your renewal of membership. A renewal form is printed in *LL* and appears on the Chapter website and Facebook page. Inquiries may be directed to Ken at: **kkertesz@comcast.net.** Further, continuation of membership is proof of your canceled check or money order, and receipt of the *LL* newsletter. Currently, there are no plans to issue a membership card.

Moscow Station Coordinator Scott Barrett reports that another tree fell and damaged the handicap ramp at the Freight House. Estimated cost for repair is not available at this time. The Freight House and Station are slowly being set up for the Holiday Trains which are supposed to run the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday after Thanksgiving.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Contact Scott Barrett at:
FDNYbuff617@gmail.com

NRHS Representative Ed Fortuna reports that he attended the NRHS Convention in Cleveland, OH, and even got to be an escort on one of the Excursion trips. The NRHS reports that their financial footing is sound currently but are always seeking more members to grow the ranks. Dues are $50.00 per year. Information can be obtained on the website: www.nrhs.com Interesting to note is that dues for the NRHS has not been increased for the past 15 years!

Laurel Lines Newsletter Editor Katie Bischak continues to provide this Chapter with a bright and vibrant issue month after month. The mailing went out this past October 2nd. Deadlines to submit information to Katie is one week after the Chapter meeting. Katie can be contacted at: kbischakphoto@gmail.com. If you like what you see and read, contact Katie, and thank her for her unequaled talent. ***(Thanks Ken! - Editor KB)***

Program Director Scott Barrett reports that this evening's program is presented by 2026 NRHS Rail camp candidates Robert DiMattio and C.J. Boyko - *"Railcamp Experience"*.

We will be entertained in the coming months with the following:

November 12th: Member Ed Koehler, Jr
"Books on the PRR"

December 10th: Members Choice
January 14th: Member Oren Helbok

A REMINDER REGARDING WINTER CONDITIONS: IF THE SCRANTON SCHOOL DISTRICT CANCELS SCHOOL ON ANY OF THOSE DATES, THE CHAPTER MEETING IS CANCELED.

Webmaster Alex Strausser reports that a link to order Chapter calendars is now available on the site, as well as a link for ordering tickets for the 2026 Holiday Trains. www.lwvrhs.org is our website. Got info? Get to Alex at: alexstrausser9@gmail.com

OLD BUSINESS

At the November 12th meeting, it is declared the Annual Meeting with the Election of Officers and Board members.

The Chapter still continues to hold a Holiday Trains Wish List that can be found on page 5 of this edition of *LL*. Donations are gratefully accepted. The Chapter now has an added expense to hosting these trains - SNHS has previously paid for the port-a-potties each year, but this year they decided that will not be the case. This will add some $400.00 cost to hosting the trains. *Does anyone care to sponsor a "John"?*

Work sessions have been completed and more will be scheduled. *Care to lend a hand?* Contact Scott Barrett and/or Roy Pauli at: rnvp2011@verizon.net

At the 2026 Lackawanna Heritage Society History Fair this past October 3rd, manning our table was Suzanne and Jim Kilcullen, Norm Barrett, and Vee & Roy Pauli. Vee reports there were less vendors this year, as opposed to 2025, but the attendance was still sizable and enjoyable.

NEW BUSINESS

Steamtown is conducting a ceremony this October 23rd from 12:00pm to 1:00pm at the Visitors Center to commemorate the October 30th, 1986 legislation that established Steamtown as an NPS Park. A Gateway Community Partners meeting was conducted this past October 5th.

Motion to adjourn by Ken Kertesz at 7:39pm. Attendance was thirty-one.

Submitted by Secretary
Ken Kertesz



Getting ready for the Holidays!



ABOVE: Tony Kwiatkowski hanging a wreath in prep for the holiday trains on 9/4/26 - Photos by Vee Pauli

BELOW: Roy Pauli refurbishing the presents for display at the Holiday Trains



NEW EQUIPMENT FOR THE LACKAWANNA RR

- Con't from Pg. 1

"The locomotives are being built by the America Locomotive Company plants Schenectady and Dunkirk, N Y. The combined length of locomotive and tender is 99 feet, 8 1/2 inches, the height to top of stack being 15 feet, 4 inches. The weight of the locomotives is 447.000 pounds, capable of exerting tractive power of 72.000 pounds. The locomotives have the capacity of 4026 horsepower the capacity of the tender is 28 tons and and 18,000 gallons of water."

Trains to Moscow Station

We are pleased to announce the 17th Annual Steamtown Holiday Trains to Moscow Railway Station. These three trains are a major support for the Moscow property.

We are the only train ride that comes to Santa, where the children have activities and giveaways.

To continue this tradition we ask for your support:

Santa - $300.00
Ornament Kits - $75.00
Tattoos - $20.00
Cookies $100.00
Crayons $50.00
Porta- Pots - $400 (Estimate)
Coloring books $70.00

Any donation large or small is greatly appreciated. If you chose to donate, please send check payable to L&WVRHS to:

Roy Pauli
708 Stafford Avenue
Scranton, PA 18505-2516

Thank you for your Support!

2027 CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE# _____

EMAIL: _____

DUES ARE $30.00 - FAMILY MEMBERS ADD $5.00 EACH
STUDENT RATE W/OUT FAMILY JOINING - $16.00

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

REMIT PAYMENT BY DECEMBER 31, 2026 PAYABLE TO:
L&WV RHS Chapter
30 Harford Avenue
Shavertown, PA 18708-1243

If you wish to donate any additional amounts, please specify below:
(Unrestricted for Chapter use, Rail Camp, General Operations, Moscow Station, etc.)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

KEN KERTESZ - MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

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

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

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Kat Bischak - Editor of *LL*

SEASONAL REMINDER

If the Scranton School District is closed for a snow day or goes to virtual class because of bad weather, the chapter meeting is cancelled.

Any questions please contact Vee Pauli 570-344-9728.