



# The PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

**JANUARY - FEBRUARY TOPICS:** Green Signals Ahead **1** Upcoming Events **2**  
Membership News **2** Membership Gauge **2** Membership Cards **2** PLS Elections **2**  
Membership Renewals **3** Donations Thank You **3** PLS Library **3** 2022 Budget **4**  
Important Notices **5** Obituaries **6** Pioneer Valley Invitation **7** Railroad Trivia **8**

## Green Signals Ahead

**PLS Reconstruction** – It's been five (5) months since PLS was visited by Tropical Storm Ida that left our property in a mess and we thought COVID-19 was hard on the railroad, but it looks like Ida was far more destructive. As I write this piece for the *PLS Gazette* we are right in the middle of winter, this morning when I got up it was 9 degrees F. with about 5 inches of snow still on the ground, the weather and holidays have slowed our progress a bit, but progress has been made and we are getting things back in order. To accomplish our reconstruction mission the Board of Directors (BOD) has been holding Special BOD meetings most Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM to keep the work and flow of needed materials moving forward, to date we have had more than a dozen meetings and this is in addition to our Regular monthly BOD meetings. As mentioned at the November Regular Membership Meeting the Board of Directors voted to return Building 1, our clubhouse, back to its original configurations/layout. Due to the water damage throughout most of the building, we had to strip off the meeting room wall covering, remove the carpet, take up the old tile floor and remove the dropped ceiling, pretty much gutted everything except the roof and the cinderblock walls. Same in the hallway and the kitchen. Demolition filled up two dumpsters and damage to Building 2 and the storage area next to the building filled up a third dumpster. This is not news to some member; to many it is valuable information as it gives some scope to the extent of the damage. It has been on our wish list for some time to try fix up our restrooms and the

kitchen that needed a lot of help. The flooring in the meeting room is a no brainer as the carpet was in poor condition and the water killed it completely. The hallway and kitchen composite tile floor was bad and the water did the rest of the damage. The roof in building's roof from the east end to the west end. We had planned to try and rehab the roof ourselves, but manpower and other projects kept getting in the way. OK what's next! We replaced the roof with a new 50-year metal roof. The repair also took care of some water damaged wood that was also replaced as part of the roof work. We found more water damage than we had imagined. The roof problems are now behind us. As many of you know we have tried to accommodate our physically challenged members and guests as much as possible. We are not ADA compliant nor are we required to be, but we have made some provisions with ramps and flat access areas and during the running season we have added an ADA Port-a-Potty, but since the restrooms have been destroyed by Ida we are working to rebuild the existing two (2) restrooms with one (1) being ADA compliant. It will be in the location of the old men's room location. The required wheelchair turning radius, the entry door, sink, mirror height, toilet and grab-bars will all be as required. The old ladies' room will become the new men's room. This room is too small to be made ADA compliant, but will receive a facelift. New lighting, sinks, fixtures and vent fans will be updated in both restrooms. The hallway just about met required minimum width needed to be compliant. It will be widened and the door to the meeting room will also be made wider. One problem is the step-up from

the hallway to the meeting room and this will be addressed with a ramp that will be used when needed to provide wheelchair access as there is no practical way to match the floor heights, this is not new as we have always had a short ramp at the doorway threshold, the new ramp will be longer. It's an old building that has had several additions and the floors in different areas are problematic at best. These improvements will be good additions to the PLS Clubhouse without adding much more in the way of cost. At the present time we have no operational restrooms and are using a Port-a-Potty. It is our goal to have at least one operational restroom by the end of February. We will continue to work on the restrooms and the meeting room. It will be months before we have these areas fully completed. The kitchen will be the last area to be refurbished and it will likely be next year before we have a fully renewed kitchen. The last thing to be finished will be the floor and this will most likely be installed or finished by a flooring specialist/contractor. Please understand the work that has been described does not go into much detail, i.e. the ceilings are a big job and new heating duct work, insulation, painting and all sorts of other items will need to be accomplished. A few weeks ago we had a BOD meeting in the meeting room. It was partially heated, but still cold and only had a few temporary lights. It was a little dark, but the room was dry and it kept the wind from blowing off our hats. The point is the meeting room was useable. As we move forward, Building 1 will become more and more usable even though some areas and items might not be completed.

(Continued on page 3)

## PLS Elections

PLS Elections will be held during the **Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday March 19, 2022 at 12:30 P.M.** Voting will be by secret ballot to elect a President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Board of Directors. This election year we had twenty-four (24) eligible Regular Members qualified to run for office of which when asked by the election committee if they would be interested in running showed no interest. Five (5) incumbents have agreed to run, two (2) for the BOD and three (3) for the officer positions. This leaves us one (1) candidate short to fill one (1) position for the Board of Directors. One (1) current BOD member, Ross Magee, has served two (2), two (2) year terms and is not eligible to run again until he has been off the BOD for a period of one year, but since we have no replacement candidate to replace Ross we will follow the *PLS Bylaws* and Ross will be held over as a Board Member until the next election in March 2023. At that time three (3), two (2) year terms and one (1), one (1) year term for the BOD will need to be elected. In addition, three officer positions will need to be elected to a one-year term.

Nominees for the open office positions are as follows:

**President: Frank Webb**

**Secretary: Mark Cahill**

**Treasurer: Bob Morris**

**Board of Directors: Paul Miller**

**Pat Murphy**

## Upcoming Events

Saturday, Feb. 19 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

Saturday, Mar. 19 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM  
**Annual Elections**

Saturday, Apr. 16 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM  
**SPRING CLEAN-UP in AM**  
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM  
Afternoon/Evening Run\*

Sunday, Apr. 24 Run Day - Members and Guests  
**Boiler Testing**  
(Rain Date May 1)

\*Note: Rides may not be available at afternoon/evening run days following membership meetings due to possible limited participation by equipment owners. All members and their guests are welcome to attend with the understanding that rides are not guaranteed at these events.

## Membership Cards

Membership cards for all members who have returned their completed renewal forms have been mailed. Guest cards, for those who completed the guest release form, were also included. If you have sent your renewal and have not yet received your membership card, OR if you need another renewal form, please email:

[secretary@palivesteamers.org](mailto:secretary@palivesteamers.org)

or write to PLS at:

P.O. Box 26202, Collegeville, PA 19426



## Membership Gauge

As of January 31, 2022 PLS has:

**104 Regular Members**

**164 Associate Members**

**5 Honorary Members**

## Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate Members Penelope Landgraf and Ronald Marburger.

## Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

<b>President</b>	Frank Webb	77 Roundwood Circle, Collegeville, PA 19426	<a href="mailto:president@palivesteamers.org">president@palivesteamers.org</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Mark Cahill	22 Tice Lane, Perkasio, PA 18944	<a href="mailto:mark.cahill@verizon.net">mark.cahill@verizon.net</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Morris	3034 Black Swift Road, Norristown, PA 19403	<a href="mailto:rmorris1171@verizon.net">rmorris1171@verizon.net</a>
<b>Gazette Editor</b>	Lawrence Moss	815 Maplewood Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438	<a href="mailto:LarryMoss@outlook.com">LarryMoss@outlook.com</a>

**Board of Directors:** Pat Murphy, [patrickmurphy129@gmail.com](mailto:patrickmurphy129@gmail.com); Pete Brown, [peteprivate@yahoo.com](mailto:peteprivate@yahoo.com); Paul Rice, [ricepaul@verizon.net](mailto:ricepaul@verizon.net)

Ross Magee, [mrmagee@gmail.com](mailto:mrmagee@gmail.com); Paul Miller, [pava77@comcast.net](mailto:pava77@comcast.net); Steve Leatherman, [steveleatherman@gmail.com](mailto:steveleatherman@gmail.com)

**Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.** • P.O. Box 26202, Collegeville, PA 19426-0202 • 610-454-0477 • [www.palivesteamers.org](http://www.palivesteamers.org)

## Membership Renewals Past Due

As a reminder, membership renewals were due by December 31, 2021. In order to remain a member, we must have your paid renewal. If you do not renew, this will be your last issue of *The PLS Gazette*. Please take the time to complete the renewal notice that you were sent in early December and forward it with your dues. If your renewal notice has been misplaced, you can receive another one by e-mailing: *secretary@palivesteamers.org* or writing to PLS Inc. at the address at the bottom of Page 2 of this issue. **Please do not forward dues renewal form completed for our records.** Your membership cards will be sent to you when your dues are received.



Just  
\$12.00

New PLS hats and Lapel Pins  
available for sale at all meets

Only  
\$5.00



(Continued from page 1)

We have another challenge as we get closer to the new running season that will begin in April, and that is the Club Locomotive. The club loco is an important part of our running season and it is currently offline as it was completely under water and damaged by IDA. Members of the PLS cleaned up the engine, changed both the engine oil and hydraulic oil and dried it out as much as possible, but the damage was still extensive. The engine is being sent to Titan Trains in Virginia for a rebuild. It is estimated it will take 8 weeks to have this work completed, but I stress that is just an estimate. In the meantime, the BOD will be asking members with operations engines to pull the club train on scheduled run days in order to support our Associate Membership. We recognize that this may be difficult as many of our members also have trains out of service due to damage caused by IDA.

One day in the not too distant future, COVID and IDA will be behind us and we can once again enjoy all the effort we put into the reconstructing of the PLS railroad and as we run down our tracks on many warm Sunday afternoons. All of the current mess will just be a memory.

Look forward to seeing soon,

Frank Webb – President PLS



# PLS Library

## Book of the Month



### Book Review

#### Trains Legendary Journeys

This clever history of rail transportation even before locomotives is in the form of a Slide-Out, See Through Story Book that will appeal to all ages. It is filled with colorful photographs and illustrations that will delight every reader. It delivers a broad history of railroads from the 1500's to today.

#### For Information contact:

Joe Gotlewski Librarian

[joegotlewski@gmail.com](mailto:joegotlewski@gmail.com)

## Donations Thank You

Pa Live Steamers is very grateful to the many members, friends and Go Fund Me donors for their continuing support. During the months of December and January, generous donations to our General Fund and/or our Ida Restoration Fund, were received from: Patrick Ozminski, Robert Blackson, Jay Forsythe, Henry Blanco White, John W. Caldwell, Kenneth Chermak, George E. Cooper, Newell Godshall, James Meadowcroft, Paul Miller, Lawrence Moss Jr, Richard Poletto, Richard Stoughton, Frank Behrle, Carl Bruhns, Thomas Diedrich, William Fluck, Thomas Gmitter, Robert Gray III, Jeffrey Guzy, Buzz Heidenreich, Edgar Hendler, Ronald Klinger, David Klotz, Robert McHale, Douglas Pyatt, James Robinson, Chris Rood, Morton Schoenberg, Dolores Stahl, Jeffrey Stahl, David Staplin, Kenneth Thomas, John Wessels, David Brush, Marc Carpino, John Forsythe, Robert Hillenbrand, Edward Kabak, Stephen Leatherman, Richard Moore, Roy Nelson, Jim Salmons, Daniel Siegle, James Stapleton, Frank Webb, Terry Weinsteiniger, Gretchen Dellatore, Joseph Marra, John Mitchell, Ed Moniger, John Morris, Joseph Natale, Edward Overly, Richard Schickling, Gita Talmage, H. Robert Wallace, Michael Yingling Sr, Brittany Grimm, Duane Quenzel, Joseph Rohanna, Bruce Saylor, Ronald Drenth, Kathleen Parris, Harry Quirk, Jr., Paul Rice, Robert Small, Douglas Brooker, David Bucher, Jay Gross, William Krayger, Stanley Richmond, Carmen Visalli, Carol Quirk, Adirondack Live Steamers, Thomas O'Leary, Steven Romano, Chris Becker, Rita Bixler, Wayne Baldwin, Sharon Connelly, David Laird, Joy Pedrick, Michael McDevitt, John Sommer, Mark Layton, William Beattie, Richard Falzone, Nikolaus Kwaznjuk, James Milo, Alan Redeker, Joseph Sabat, Deborah Voynar, and Domenic Zampogna.

# PLS Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022

Income	Expenses	
<b>100 • Donation</b>	<b>200 • Utilities</b>	223.30 Other Printing 175.00
100.10 Run Day 250.00	200.10 Electric 2,400.00	223.40 Computer 100.00
100.90 Other Donations 9,500.00	200.20 Oil 1,600.00	223.50 Internet 1,200.00
Total 100 • Donations \$9,750.00	200.30 Septic Tank 675.00	223.60 Community Support 125.00
<b>120 • Dues</b>	200.40 Portable Toilets 2,520.00	223.70 Waiver Sheets 50.00
120.10 Regular Members 12,000.00	200.50 Telephone 300.00	223.80 Web Page 750.00
120.20 Associate Members 5,250.00	200.60 Dumpster 750.00	223.99 Misc. Communication .00
Total 120 • Dues \$17,250.00	200.70 Miscellaneous Utilities 0.00	Total 223 • Communications \$3,410.00
<b>130 • Items Sold</b>	Total 200 • Utilities \$8,245.00	<b>224 • Corporate</b>
130.20 Coal 10.00	<b>210 • Miscellaneous Expense</b>	224.10 Legal & Prof. Fees 450.00
130.50 Soda Sales 250.00	210.20 Picnic 375.00	224.11 Delaware Corp. Tax 75.00
130.60 Snacks Non-Run Day 95.00	210.30 Pot Luck Dinner .00	224.20 Office General 400.00
130.70 Snacks Run Day 175.00	210.40 Security 200.00	224.30 Property Tax 4,300.00
130.80 Kitchen Sales .00	Total 210 • Miscellaneous Exp. \$575.00	224.40 Sales Tax 60.00
130.90 Table Sales Taxable 1,000.00	<b>220 • Maintenance</b>	224.60 Office Postage 350.00
130.91 Table Sales Non-Tax 600.00	220.10 Backhoe 1,900.00	224.70 Insurance 4,400.00
Total 130 • Items Sold \$2,130.00	220.11 Machine Shop Supplies 00.00	224.80 Corporate Printing 300.00
<b>140 • Storage Track Fees</b>	220.20 Building # 1 100.00	224.99 Corporate Misc. 100.00
140.30 Building # 3 Rental 5,454.00	220.30 Buildings # 2-8 500.00	Total 224 • Corporate \$10,435.00
140.60 Building # 6 Rental 2,580.00	220.40 Gauge 1 100.00	<b>225 • Sales</b>
140.80 Building #8 Rental 711.00	220.50 Track 3,000.00	225.10 Kitchen .00
Total 140 • Storage Track Fees \$8,745.00	220.60 Mower 1,000.00	225.20 Snacks 150.00
<b>Total Income \$37,875.00</b>	220.70 Signals 500.00	225.30 Soda 125.00
	220.80 Gas Mowing 350.00	225.40 Table Sales 1,000.00
	220.90 Gas Track 50.00	Total 225 • Sales \$1,275.00
	220.91 Club Locomotive 2,000.00	<b>226 • Special Projects</b>
	220.92 Landscaping 250.00	Flood Repairs **
	220.925 Tree Replacement .00	60,000.00
	220.94 Fire Extinguishers 300.00	Total 226 • Spec. Projects \$60,000.00
	220.99 Misc. Maintenance 500.00	<b>Total Expenses \$94,490.00</b>
	Total 220 • Maintenance \$10,550.00	<i>Excess of Income</i>
	<b>223 • Communications</b>	<i>Over Expenses..... (\$56,615.00)</i>
	223.10 Gazette Postage 385.00	
	233.20 Gazette Printing 625.00	** Flood Repairs to be funded from
		donations received in prior year.

**Item 1**

Your Board of Directors (BOD) has reviewed our dues schedule. PLS has not had an increase in dues in more than 15 years, the BOD discussed this important issue and following significant discussion a motion, second and vote was taken to propose an increase in membership dues in 2023, the motion passed. The motion was to increase Regular membership dues from \$80.00 to \$120.00 and Associate membership dues from \$30.00 to 35.00. The BOD is recommending that the membership approve this long overdue increase to help with the rising costs experienced over the past 15 years. Once approved the increase will go into effect January 1, 2023, as in the past you will receive your request to pay your membership dues with your renewal notice in December 2022.

**Item 2**

Your BOD also discussed the storage fee schedule for Building 3, Building 6 and Building 8. PLS has not had an increase in storage fees in more than 20 years. Following significant discussion a motion, second and a vote was taken to propose to the membership an increase in the storage fees in 2023, the motion passed. The BOD is recommending that the membership approve this long overdue increase to help with rising costs experienced over the past 20 years. When approved this increase will go into effect April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, as in the past you will receive your request to pay storage fees with your membership renewal notice in December 2022. The proposed increases are as follows:

**Building 3**, Short bay current fee \$48.00 - new fee \$70.00 per year

**Building 3**, Long bay current fee \$66.00 - new fee \$96.00 per year

**Building 6**, Upper shelf current fee \$140.00 - new fee \$156.00 per year

**Building 6**, Lower shelf current fee \$150.00 - new fee \$168.00 per year

**Building 8**, Current fee \$48.00 - new fee \$79.00 per year

**Item 3**

Your BOD also discussed the **PLS 75 Anniversary** celebration we have scheduled around our fall meet in 2022. Following significant discussion a motion, second and a vote was taken to propose to the membership that we cancel the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, the motion passed. The BOD is recommending that the membership vote in favor of canceling the 75<sup>th</sup>. This cancelation will not affect our Fall Meet as we expect the railroad to be fully operational, the same cannot be said for the buildings on our property, especially Building 1 the clubhouse and Building 9 the storage building where the club work train and engine is stored. Both of these building will keep the core of our working members busy for many months and as we enter the spring and summer months the same work force will be cutting the grass, performing track work and other railroad related functions. Our property is likely to have some short comings that will take more than a year to completely resolve and now is not the time to inviting vendors and outside guests. Once reconstruction is complete we can host a celebration to say goodbye to COVID and hello to a renewed PLS property.

Please give these items a careful review and consideration. All Regular Members have the right to vote and the BOD would appreciate a YES vote on all of these important items.

Thank you,

Board of Directors

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

## Final Whistle Blows

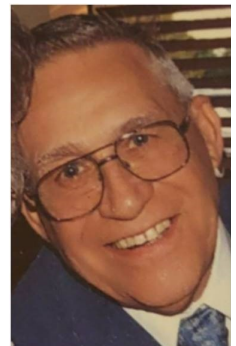
### Charles L. Chermak 2022

The Pennsylvania Live Steamers offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of a longtime PLS Associate, Charles L. Chermak who passed away peacefully on January 21, 2022 in Morris Plains, NJ. We were all very saddened to hear of Charlie's passing from his son Ken who sent us this heart felt message; "With a heavy heart: I must let the world know we lost my dad. We are extremely sad for his loss, but heaven has absolutely gained a brilliant, loving man. From my earliest memories to most recent; he was always a great father; he taught me so much. I will miss all those days we shared and I can say that I was so lucky to have him. I love you Dad. Rest In Peace". Charlie started in the live steam hobby 1977 at the New Jersey Live Steamers where he was a Regular member until his passing.



### Richard F. Speak 1936-2022

The Pennsylvania Live Steamers offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of long time PLS member, Richard Speak, who passed away this February. Richard enjoyed running a 4 3/4" gauge, 1" scale live steamer. He had many hobbies including camping, hunting, bicycling, and cross country skiing. He was fascinated by trains and spent a lot of his time building a model railroad in his basement. Recently he built a ride-on railway on his property which all his grandchildren and great grandchildren enjoyed. We will miss Richard.



### William I. Dobbs 1950-2022

The Pennsylvania Live Steamers offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of a former longtime PLS Associate member, William (Bill) I. Dobbs, who passed away on January 13, 2022 in Chiloquin, Oregon. Bill was born in Montclair, New Jersey, and was a lifelong railroad worker. He enjoyed antique military vehicles and model railroading, and volunteered his mechanical skills at Train Mountain in Chiloquin for many years. When Bill joined the hobby in the 1980's his first train was a 4 3/4" gauge, 1" scale live steamer. After his move to Chiloquin and Train Mountain he graduated to 7 1/2" gauge and 2 1/2" scale equipment as shown in the photo below.





## PIONEER VALLEY LIVE STEAMERS

70th Anniversary Meet

June 17-19, 2022

Dear Fellow Live Steamers,

You are invited to attend our 70th Anniversary Meet from June 17-19th at our track facility in Southwick, Massachusetts. We are hoping to host a large number of our fellow Live Steamers from the US and Canada.

PVLS has a dual gauge 3/4" and a 1" highline plus a large 7 1/4" ground track.

There is plenty of room for rural camping on the grounds and there will be limited electrical hookups for campers. Google Westfield, Massachusetts for a complete listing of area motels. Most of them will allow you to book online.

We are not running a kitchen during this weekend but will have grinders on Friday and pizza on Saturday for registered people. Soda and water will be available all weekend. There are numerous restaurants in Southwick and most offer delivery to the club. There is also a catered banquet on Saturday night for the first 120 who reserve.

There is a G scale table. We are planning a steam model table with air and hopefully steam if you wish to bring a model. We are also planning to have several Live Steam vendors present at the meet.

If you wish to arrive early and spend an extra day; we will have members there on Thursday to welcome!!!

Looking forward to seeing many old friends and making new ones in June!!!

Sincerely,

Rich Hubbard  
Meet Chairman

**If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Rich Hubbard  
at [rhubbard02@gmail.com](mailto:rhubbard02@gmail.com) or call him 7-9 PM at 860-283-5530  
and ask for a Registration Form**

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS APRIL 15TH**



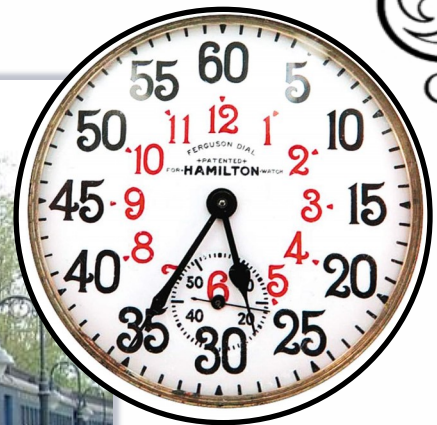
# The PLS GAZETTE

P.O. Box 26202

Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

## FIRST CLASS

### RAILROAD TRIVIA



Louis Buck Ferguson iterated through several early variants of his unique railroad watch face before settling on the design widely recognized as the standard "Ferguson Dial" patented by Louis Ferguson, November 17, 1908.