



# THE PLS GAZETTE

PUBLISHED BY  
**THE PENNSYLVANIA LIVE STEAMERS, INC.**

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## The 2026 Operating Season is about to begin!

Chipper day on April 11th was a great success. We had a great turn out and the resulting huge chipper pile was spread around the area to make it look much nicer. It looks like a professional landscaper did the work. Thanks to all who showed up and put in the day's work.

It was nice to get to know probationary member Brian Hornberger better at the event, his effort helped a lot.

We are now at \$13,600 in pledges for the paver project, just \$3400 short of the \$17,000 goal. The deadline is June 1st to reach the goal, or the project may not happen. If 34 members pledge \$100 each or 68 members pledge \$50 each, we will reach the goal. Please consider a pledge to help us reach the goal by the quickly approaching June 1st deadline. We are so close to the finish line; it would be a shame not to cross it.

Remember Perkiomen Day is May 30th from 11am to 3pm. We need a list of trains, engineers, conductors, station crew, table sales staff, hospitality personnel, and safety coordinator. Please inform event coordinators Bonny Slater [quiltsewladylady@yahoo.com](mailto:quiltsewladylady@yahoo.com) and Steve Mallon [mallonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mallonmusic@gmail.com) of your participation in advance so we can plan for a safe and successful event.

Gwen Forsythe is recovering well from hip replacement surgery, so it looks positive that she will once again provide the superb food service at our meets and run days. She could certainly use more help, please contact her to see how you could assist. It would greatly encourage her and everyone. 267-733-3314 [jgforsythe123@gmail.com](mailto:jgforsythe123@gmail.com)

Tie replacement continues, but more help is needed. Please come help. Thank you Rick Stoughton for the many ties you have replaced so far!

Work days are every Wednesday and Saturday, please come out and help!

The cold and very snowy winter already seems like a distant memory as we look forward to the fun we will have at the tracks this year.

See you at the tracks!

John Forsythe  
President PLS, Inc.

# PLS Elections Results

PLS Elections were held during the Annual Membership Meeting on Saturday March 21, 2026.

- Executive Committee – 1 year term

**President:** John Forsythe

**Secretary:** Paul Miller

**Treasurer:** Mark Cahill

- Board of Directors – 2 year term

Fred Daddi

Rob Kuhlman

Bonny Slater

## 2026 PLS Upcoming Events

- Sun, Apr 26 **BOILER TESTING**  
Run Day Members and Guest  
(Rain Date May 3)
- Sat, May 16 **Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM**  
**Annual Meeting – 12:30 PM**
- Fri, May 22 **SPRING MEET – Members & Guest**
- Sat, May 23 **Breakfast & Lunch, Pot Luck Dinner**
- Sun, May 24 **Breakfast & Lunch**
- Sat, May 30 **Perkiomen Community Day**  
**for Township Residents**
- Sat, June 13 **Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM**  
**Membership Meeting – 12:30 PM**
- Sat, June 20 **Run Day Members and Guest**  
(Rain Date June 21)

## Membership Gauge

As of April 15, PLS has:

**94** Regular Members

**9** Probationary

**119** Associate Members

**2** Honorary Members.



## Club Membership News

Gwen Forsythe and Mark Rue have applied for Regular membership.

## Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for donations received by April 12:

Cheryl Guffy and Bruce Saylor.

## Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

|                       |                             |                      |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>President</b>      | John Forsythe               | of Blooming Glen, PA | <a href="mailto:john@tcsdcc.com">john@tcsdcc.com</a>                           |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Paul Miller                 | of West Chester, PA  | <a href="mailto:secretary@palivesteamers.org">secretary@palivesteamers.org</a> |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Mark Cahill                 | of Perkasio, PA      | <a href="mailto:treasurer@palivesteamers.org">treasurer@palivesteamers.org</a> |
| <b>Gazette Editor</b> | TBD - Paul Miller (Interim) |                      |  |

### Board of Directors

Steve Mallon, [mallonmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mallonmusic@gmail.com) - Term Expires 3/27,  
Bonny Slater, , [quiltnewlady@yahoo.com](mailto:quiltnewlady@yahoo.com) - Term Expires 3/28  
Bruce Barrett, [greenjeeps2@yahoo.com](mailto:greenjeeps2@yahoo.com) - Term Expires 3/27

Fred Daddi, [F\\_Daddi@yahoo.com](mailto:F_Daddi@yahoo.com) - Term Expires 3/28  
Peter Brown, [peteprivate@yahoo.com](mailto:peteprivate@yahoo.com) - Term Expires 3/27  
Rob Kuhlman, [cr@ashbykuhlman.net](mailto:cr@ashbykuhlman.net) - Term Expires 3/28

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

# PLS Gazette Tribute

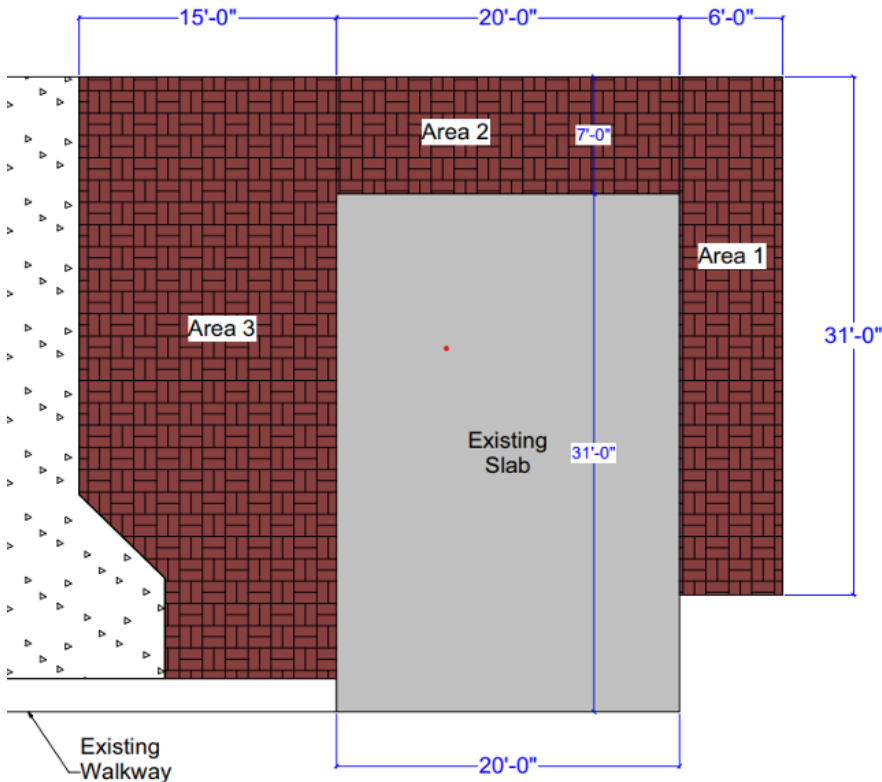
As we begin our 80<sup>th</sup> Year I am changing back to the original Gazette letterhead and adding our logo on the front page. All 6 issues this year will display the old letterhead as a tribute. I am also republishing Gazette Number 2 inside this issue (see Pages 4-6). As created by our first editor the late Bob Thomas back in March 1970. Recently long time Member Bob Blackson provided to me pristine copies of Number 1,2 &3 (Thanks Bob).

Gazette Number 2 is a hard read. The quality is better in some areas than others of this 53-year-old document.

I have taken the opportunity with this Gazette to name this issue, Volume 80 Number 2 to better align with our years together and not the years we have had the PLS Gazette.

Paul Miller  
Secretary PLS, Inc.  
PLS Gazette Editor

# PLS Paver Project



The graphic is just a reminder of the scope and size of the proposed project.

The gray rectangle represents the exist concrete slab of the pavilion.

The red area shows the proposed pavers surrounding the slab.

Area 1 would be the area where we would add a memorial section. Engraved bricks can be added as needed, this is a low traffic area.

Pledges total \$13,600 so far just \$3,400 short of \$17,000 required to get started.

So far, we have raised about 80% of the total amount need to commence with the project. According to the Pledge card we have until June 1, 2026, to raise the remaining \$3,400 quite possible.

If you need a pledge card, contact Mark Cahill or Pat Murphy.

# PLS Gazette Tribute

## THE PLS GAZETTE

PUBLISHED BY  
THE PENNSYLVANIA LIVE STEAMERS, INC.

EDITOR: ROBERT S. THOMAS 216 SUNRISE LANE PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19118

NUMBER 2

MARCH 1970

### MEETING NOTICE & WORK DAYS

REGULAR MEETING: 8 PM Friday, March 20th at the Central Baptist Church, Wayne. There will be a report of the meeting related to the Wentz Farm and further discussion of proposals for track construction. The program will be a description of the Backworth valve gear with an operating model and supplementary descriptive material, to be presented by George Thomas.

DIRECTOR'S MEETING: 8 PM Monday, March 29th at the Chairman's home.

WORK DAYS AT TRACK: April 4th & 11th - put track in order for 1970.

### OUR \*\*SECOND\*\* ISSUE!

Acceptance of the Gazette has been quite encouraging; all of the comments received so far have been complimentary and enthusiastic about the future possibilities of the paper. I am still looking for criticism, however, so if you have any opinions on ways to improve our publication, please let me know about them. In spite of its modest content, a lot of time is spent in writing and producing each issue so we may as well make it the way you want it. Speak-up.

One change you probably noticed already is somewhat better legibility achieved through the use of a different type face in my spouse's IBM Selectric typewriter. The type used last month was a little too small for clean reproduction by the hectographic process.

There is still a dearth of short, newsy items pertaining to members' live steam activities, so PUFF-BLEPZE pass along anything of that nature about yourself or someone you know about. How would you like to have notices of tools, materials or parts for sale, trade or wanted? There is a great diversity of requirements on one hand, and resources on the other, in our membership; maybe the Gazette can publicize them for our mutual benefit. We will print all non-commercial notices in these categories.

### BYLAWS

The change in Bylaws required to increase Associate Members' dues was voted on and passed at the February meeting. There ensued a discussion about the amount of dues charged and whether they should even be specified in the Bylaws. The need for other changes in the regulations was also expressed. For the next few months we will be thoroughly occupied by matters associated with our impending move and will find it difficult to allot time to more mundane business that can easily be postponed. Therefore, let's delay serious consideration of Bylaws for the present but plan on a complete review no later than the September meeting.

# PLS Gazette Tribute

## FEBRUARY "BITS AND PIECES" NIGHT

There is nothing like seeing another fellow's progress to stimulate your own interest in a modelling project. Variety, workmanship and ingenuity characterized the items displayed and described at our last meeting. For the benefit of those who did not attend, a short account of what was shown is given below - I hope I haven't missed any.

IBSC "Virginia" chassis and boiler components: Frank Moore

Rail, tie plates and track section: Bill Scott

Completed tender for "Ginny" with hints and tips on painting: Malcolm Pierson

Smoke box for 3-stack Northern; home-made hex bolts and instructions for manufacturing them; hex wrenches made from Allen set screws; tips on silver soldering such as, use Dixon's pipe compound to mask areas where you don't want solder to run; use brass-bristle brush to clean files rather than a file card, which dulls the files: Paul Jones

Smoke box front, built-up hand pump, dummy scale water feed: George Hoopes

Mass-produced union nuts: Doc Bayse

Smoke box with removable section for access to superheater header: Tom Willie

Electric locomotive chassis (1" scale), Nelson Gray trucks and small castings: Jim Ziegler

Tender frame for 1" scale 0-4-0: Ernie Anastasi

Working model of Young valve gear: Arthur Hacker

Stuart No. 9 stationary engine on plinth with water pump and feed water heater: George Thomas

B & O Class B-18 17/32" scale 4-6-0 chassis: Bob Thomas

## WENTZ FARM NEGOTIATIONS

Because of our publication deadline it will not be possible to report on the meeting of PLS representatives and Montgomery County Park Commissioners, which is scheduled for the afternoon of March 9th. By that date Buck Slayton will have completed the illustrated brochure describing our club and what we consider to be the mutual benefits to be derived by our presence on park grounds. To supplement the brochure Buck has also prepared several Vue Graph slides which will complement his oral presentation. Bill Nozart has edited a special 16mm film to effectively illustrate operation at our present site. Bill has also drawn a preliminary plan of a track route for the area of the Wentz Farm under discussion. Malcolm Pierson's "Ginny" and Carl Dougherty's "Tom Thumb" will be displayed to provide tangible documentation of our miniature locomotive construction.

As evidence of the importance we place on these negotiations, and to provide a basis for discussion, Buck and Malcolm have consulted with attorney Paul Guest, who was already familiar with our objectives as a result of previous legal work he did for us. Mr. Guest subsequently prepared a draft of a lease agreement in very short order. This was reviewed and modified by the PLS Board of Directors and returned to Mr. Guest for final revision prior to presentation to the Commissioners.

# PLS Gazette Tribute

- The presentation has been planned to the minutest detail by Buck in truly professional style. It will culminate, we hope, in an arrangement beneficial to the people of Montgomery County and ourselves.

## JACK WEST MEET

The second annual Anniversary Meet, Golden Spikes, will be held by Jack West on June 26, 27, 28 at his Island Creek and Western Railroad. If you wish to attend Jack's meet, write to him requesting a map and listing the names of those in your party and the dates you plan to attend. No one will be admitted without a reservation and no young children will be admitted because of dangerous unguarded deep water. The Editor, for one, is going to make every effort to be there for at least one day. Write to Jack at P. O. Box 1154, Easton, Md.

## PLS SOCIAL NIGHT

Due to a goof on the part of the Editor (or is it the goofey Editor?) the deadline for reservations to our dinner was incorrectly listed in the last issue of the Gazette. Tom Willis came through with an excellent cartoon announcement that set things right; this was mailed to the local members only, since we didn't think the more distant ones would come anyway. If you haven't ordered your dinners by now it's too late. Tom has planned a short interlude of Bingo with donated prizes including an LP record, tickets to a Geographical Society film at the Academy of Music, an injector for 3/4" or 1" scale engine, and tickets to a pro basketball game. See you there.

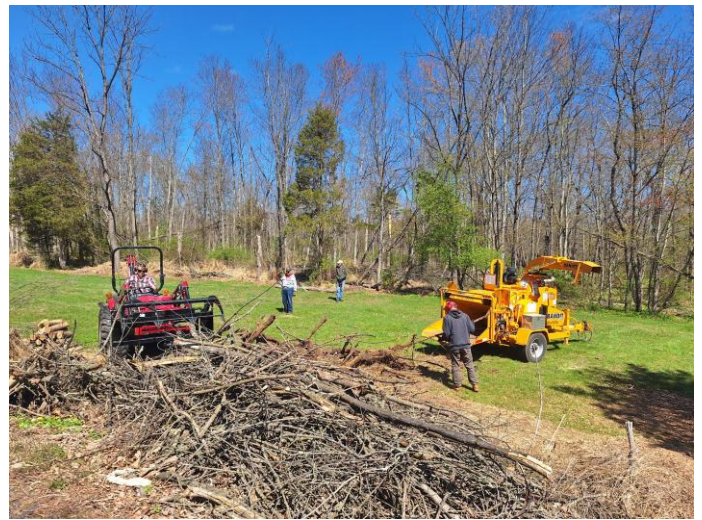
## MISCELLANEOUS

In addition to his duties as Club Representative on Running days, Ernie Anastasi will keep an eye out for visitors and new members at our meeting so they can be introduced to us in the course of the meeting... The Editor received a nice post card picturing a NYC Hudson from K4-Ray Palmer... Corrie Michalski will be missing our meetings due to conflict with meeting schedule of Mainline SME of which he is also a member... Running schedules and membership lists have been printed through the efforts of Dan Crabtree. Membership list was typed by GRT... Hal Zoons wrote requesting copy of track construction standards... Frank Moore was robbed while in Washington... I was told in Birmingham this summer that one of the favorite veins for coal used in their locomotives has been abandoned and new supply source is low in steaming quality... Paul Jones expects his Northern locomotive to use 12 THOUSAND hex bolts, of which 8,000 have been made already... Bill Scott is building a railroad of his own by laying 3 1/2" gauge track on ties wide enough for another rail to be laid in the future to provide 7 1/4" track... New Member John McPherson has offered to reproduce photographs of four engines on a single sheet by offset printing so we can include pictures with the publicity release being prepared by my father and Carl Dougherty... Question for the month: What is the name of the man credited with devising the system widely used for classifying locomotives by wheel arrangement (4-6-2, etc.)?

# Workdays at PLS



And so Chipper Day begins trying to get the pile closer to the chipper.



The process begins, sticks are going in.



More wood being dragged into the pile. Note even some of the small pine trees were cut down and added to the mix.



Jonh Forsythe brought his Tractor and really helped expedite the process.

## PLS Advertisements

### For Sale

PLS is selling LGB track that was donated to us. There are 43 curved pieces and 17 straight pieces available at \$2 each. The track can be purchased at our Run Days until all is sold. Or, if interested, email Mark Cahill at [treasurer@palivesteamers.org](mailto:treasurer@palivesteamers.org)



# The PLS GAZETTE

P.O. Box 26202  
Collegeville, PA 19426-0202

## FIRST CLASS



Great job by all to help make Chipper Day a success. Note this area of the layout has not looked this good in many, many years.