



Dear AC&Y Railroad Historical Society Members and Friends,

The Holiday Season is always a wonderful time of the year and I hope that this year it will also be a time for all of you to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life and reflect for a moment on the events of the past year. The Society, ever moving forward, has made great strides both organizationally and motivationally this year. As a Society, we are thankful for each other. We know that AC&YHS's strength is founded in the strength of its Board of Directors, and we all count on each other for overall team success. You've heard me say it countless times, but we also are extremely thankful for our membership. Without them, there is no AC&YHS.

The AC&YHS Board of Director's had planned to end printing of our Newsletter and replace it with a digital download. This decision was based primarily on the fact that the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter is a significant part of our budget. While we introduced the idea late summer of 2009 and again at the Annual Convention and Business Meeting last October, I have received a lot of feedback. From your comments at the Convention to your letters and emails, we are listening - you want a printed Newsletter! It is on its way to you, this issue covers the full year of 2009. Now that we are back on track, the AC&YHS is poised to offer the Newsletter quarterly again beginning spring of 2010. We have many new programs in the works and many announcements that will show the AC&YHS is back! Please read the insert that will accompanied the Newsletter. We have simplified our membership dues structure and need your support. Please take this opportunity to renew your membership for 2010. I truly hope you enjoy what we all are building - a strong Society with a viable future! While the Newsletter will be printed and mailed, a digital version will be available on the Society's website. Ralph Rizzo, our webmaster, is working on a member's only part to our website. In this private part of the website, enhanced content and interactive feedback will be available.

I would like to thank everyone that voted for the 2010 AC&YHS Society Officers. The ballots were tallied and certified by the Society's attorney, George J. Emershaw Esq. All nominees were unanimously elected to their posts for 2010 as follows:



President	Robert Peacock
Vice-President	Larry McClure
Secretary	Melanie Peacock
Treasurer	Edwin C. Kirstatter
Trustee	Michael Bradley
Trustee	John Bozick
Trustee	Steve Holzheimer
Trustee	Carl Lantz
Trustee	Robert E. Lucas

I wish to personally thank the members of the Board of Directors for all of the time and hard work that they put in to make this organization the success that it has become. I am very privileged to serve on this board and have all of these fine people to help keep this organization headed in the right direction, as well as vibrant and enjoyable for all our members. The Board and I are proud of the direction the Society is moving, and we are looking forward to an even better 2010!

During this holiday season, if I could give each of you a gift, I might choose to give the special gift of friendship. I truly value my own friends in AC&YHS and the friends I have in the other facets of my life. Those individuals we call friends multiply joy, divide grief and have the ability to bring out the best in us. Some make a difference by coming into and out of our lives for brief moments of time. Others make a difference by choosing to stay for a while and learn about us. Still others come to be the long-lasting friends who seem to take the time to know us well, yet love us anyway. Each friend is a treasured gift. Each makes an impact on our lives and an impression upon our souls that lasts forever. And I choose to give this gift to you, as I do have it available. Although it is not exactly mine to give, it is yours to receive and to share. You see, this gift is available each time you attend and participate in with the AC&YHS.

As the New Year approaches, this is also a time of great hope and anticipation. This is especially true this year, as 2010 promises to bring many changes to the



Akron Canton & Youngstown Railroad Historical Society. With change comes great opportunity. I encourage you all to embrace the opportunity that lies ahead, and to take part in redefining this Society, as we forge forward together. Whatever changes occur, we know the commitment to and from our membership will remain strong. With that in mind, I believe that the AC&YHS will not only survive, but it will thrive.

Lastly, I'd like to wish you all the happiest and healthiest of Holidays and a very safe and happy New Year. I'll see you all in 2010.

Robert Peacock
President - AC&Y Railroad Historical Society

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