

THE  
OFFICIAL BALLOT INSIDE

# THE SEMAPHORE

NEWSLETTER OF THE ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

NOVEMBER 2014  
VOL. 58 No. 3

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**November 20**  
**Member Slide Night**  
**and**  
**Officer Elections**



Our 2014 Fall Foliage Express was a sell-out success, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the cooperation of the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad. Four trips ran from Lakeville to Industry on October 18. ILLUSTRATION BASED ON CHRIS PLAYFORD PHOTO

# Election Special

## **INSIDE**

Meeting Minutes . . . . .	2
Museum News . . . . .	3
Official Ballot . . . . .	5
Holiday Open House. . . .	7
Christmas Trains . . . . .	7

Just as we go to the polls in our communities in the month of November, our museum will be holding its annual elections at this month's membership meeting. You'll find your official ballot on Page 5. **Detach it from this newsletter, cast your vote, and mail it in before November 16. Or, you can bring your ballot in person to the monthly meeting on November 20.** We have a full slate of candidates for a variety of positions, so please take the time to cast your vote.

I'd also like to remind you that your Board of Trustees is here to serve you. As president, my contact information is published in every issue. If you have a matter that you would like addressed by the board, please me so I can add your item to the agenda. Your Board of Trustees are also members at large, active in the growth

and development of your museum. If you're not comfortable talking to me, please reach out to one of them.

We are winding down another successful joint operations season with the NYMT. Both attendance and revenue are on track to beat last year's totals. Thank you to everyone who made this season a success, we look forward to increased growth next year with your help.

Coming up, don't miss our Holiday Open House on Friday, December 5, and look for info on our special joint holiday train rides to the "North Pole" weekends in December.

Have questions or comments? Call me at (716) 474-2833 or by email at [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com).

—Mike Dow,  
Museum President



[www.rgvrrm.org](http://www.rgvrrm.org)

#### MUSEUM OFFICERS

##### PRESIDENT

Mike Dow  
(716) 474-2833

##### VICE PRESIDENT

Joe Nugent

##### TREASURER

Dave Peet

##### RECORDING SECRETARY

Joel R. Shaw

##### CORRESPONDING SEC'Y

Don Wawrzyniak

##### TRUSTEES

Bob Burz  
Peter Gores  
Jim Johnson  
David Scheiderich  
Otto M. Vondrak  
Mark Wilczek



The official publication of  
the Rochester & Genesee Valley  
Railroad Museum

Volume 58, No. 3

##### EDITOR

Otto M. Vondrak  
ovondrak@yahoo.com

##### PRINTING AND MAILING

Dave Peet  
Don Wawrzyniak

©2014 Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. The Semaphore is published monthly by the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. It is mailed free to all members. Non-member subscriptions are \$12.00 and run from January 1 to December 31. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, and the Board of Trustees meets the first Thursday of each month. Any items related to the activities of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, and regional railroad history and current events are gladly accepted.



## Fall Foliage OCT. 18, 2014

Thanks to the support of so many for making our 2014 Fall Foliage Express such a huge success! From parking attendants to ticket check-in, to on-board services, car hosts, and concessions, everyone pitched in. Please visit our Facebook fan page for even more photos from this event.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS PLAYFORD AND JOE NUGENT



#### JOIN THE MUSEUM TODAY

Annual Dues: \$25.00

Rochester & Genesee Valley RR Museum

P.O. Box 23326

Rochester, NY 14692-3326

PLAN AHEAD: Next Meeting:

## December 18

at 40&8 Club, Rochester, NY





## ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM

VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [WWW.RGVRRM.ORG](http://WWW.RGVRRM.ORG)

### MUSEUM CONTACT INFO

#### MUSEUM PRESIDENT

Mike Dow

(716) 474-2833 [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com)

#### MUSEUM MANGLER

Mark Wilczek

(585) 721-1377 [mwilczek@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mwilczek@rochester.rr.com)

#### MOTIVE POWER SUPT.

Joe Nugent

(585) 944-1047 [joe.r.nugent@gmail.com](mailto:joe.r.nugent@gmail.com)

#### OPERATIONS SUPT.

Jim Otto

(585) 755-8942 [jamesotto@gmail.com](mailto:jamesotto@gmail.com)

#### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Sam Rosenberg

[ALC0251@frontiernet.net](mailto:ALC0251@frontiernet.net)



Pumpkin Patch Halloween Trolleys run in coordination with NYMT on October 25 were another sell-out success, and will be repeated in the future. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO

### FALL FOLIAGE EXPRESS A HUGE SUCCESS

On behalf of the trip committee, thank you to everyone who made our Fall Foliage Express a sell-out success! Thanks also to the Livonia, Avon & Lakeville Railroad for their cooperation and smooth handling of the event. Not only did each of the four trains sell out, but feedback from our riders was overwhelmingly positive. Here is just a partial list of folks who helped make our train rides so enjoyable:

**Parking:** Steve Huse, Bill Blaesi, Tony Mittiga, Jim Ziobro, Rand Warner, Rick Israelson. **Car Hosts:** Wayne Turnblom, Jeremy Tuke, Harold Russell, Lynn Heintz, Ray Howard, Rich Fischpera, Jim East, Andy Swoyer, Otto Vondrak, Josh Weis. **Train Service Techs:** Joe Nugent, Rob Burz, Mark Skipworth, Rand Warner, Kevin Madoo, William Strasser, Dale Hartnett, Dave Boswell, Dave Shields. **Concessions:** Jim Otto, Laurie Otto, Nick Otto, Jeanine Lovell, Don Wawrzniak. **Ticket Check-In:** Dave Coon, Dave Peet, Roy Wullich, Carlos Mercado, Rob Burz. **Medical Staff:** Laurie Otto, LPN; Collin Sowinski, EMT; Jeanine Lovell, RN; Ann Gilbert, RN. **Industry Depot Guides:** John Stewart, Jim Johnson, Bob Achilles.

—Dave Shields, Project Coordinator

### HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Our annual Holiday Open House will be held on Friday, December 5, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Industry Depot. Enjoy some holiday cheer in the warm festive atmosphere of our restored country depot. Bring a dish or other refreshments to pass. Open to all friends and family!

### CHRISTMAS TRAINS

Building upon our success of last year's Evergreen Express, we're going to try expanding our Christmas-themed event in partnership with the NYMT. On December 6 and 20, we will operate the "North Pole Express" diesel train from Industry to the "North Pole" (Midway). On December 7 and 21 NYMT will operate the "North Pole Express" trolley from NYMT to North "Pole." Visitors will enjoy a fun train ride to the North Pole, where they will meet Santa and enjoy some treats before returning. Tickets are \$15.00 each and must be purchased in advance from our web site at [rgvrrm.org/santa](http://rgvrrm.org/santa). We will also need volunteers to staff the Midway location. Please contact Otto Vondrak at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) for details.

The NYMT's Holly Trolley will contin-

ue normal operation on December 13-14, no reservations needed. Visit our new web site at [RochesterTrainRides.com](http://RochesterTrainRides.com) for info.

—Otto M. Vondrak

### RIT TIGER TRACKS TRAIN SHOW

We need help staffing our booth at the annual Tiger Tracks Train Show Dec. 13-14. Tiger Tracks is the largest train show in Rochester, and a great opportunity to reach out to the public and recruit new members. Any help throughout the weekend is appreciated. Please contact Otto Vondrak at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) to sign up.

### RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be Thursday, December 4, 2014. To get an item added to the agenda, please contact president Mike Dow at (716) 474-2833 or [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com). Remember that any members are welcome to attend, but to address the board, you must be on that meeting's agenda. 

VISIT US ONLINE AT...

[WWW.RGVRRM.ORG](http://WWW.RGVRRM.ORG)

[FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM](https://FACEBOOK.COM/RGVRRM)

[YOUTUBE.COM/RGVRRM](https://YOUTUBE.COM/RGVRRM)

*Here Comes Another*

# **BY-LAWS CHANGE**

For the purposes of this proposed by-laws change, the term "regular meetings" refers to our official, on-the-record monthly business meetings where the membership attend. This matter will be voted on by the membership at the November 20 meeting.

## **\*\* AS IS:**

### Article VIII- Meetings

1. The regular meetings of the RGVRRM shall be held on the third (3rd) Thursday of each month at a designated meeting place.

## **\*\* PROPOSED:**

### Article VIII.- Meetings

1. The regular meetings of the RGVRRM shall be held on the third (3rd) Thursday of **the following months; February, May, August, November**, at a designated meeting place.

## **\*\* AS IS:**

### Article IV- Elections

1. All officers and those trustees whose term expires shall be elected at the regular November meeting by majority vote of all eligible members voting in person or by mailed ballot. Mailed ballots must be received at the RGVRRM mailing address before the November meeting.

2. Prior to the regular October meeting, a Nominating Committee shall meet and select a slate of officers and trustees. This committee shall consist of four RGVRRM members. Two of these members will be carry over trustees, one of which will serve as chairman, as nominated by the President and confirmed by the remainder of the board by majority vote. The two confirmed trustees shall select two members who are not currently serving on the board or seeking nomination.

3. At the regular October meeting, the Nominating Committee shall announce their slate of candidates, then the President shall call for additional nominations from the floor. It will be the job of the Nominating Committee chairman to contact those nominated from the floor that were not present, if any, and ask those individuals if they will accept the nomination. If they accept, those names will be added to the ballot of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee.

## **\*\* PROPOSED:**

### Article IV- Elections

1. All officers and those trustees whose term expires shall be elected at the regular November meeting by majority vote of all eligible members voting in person or by mailed ballot. Mailed ballots must be received at the RGVRRM mailing address before the November meeting.

2. Prior to the regular **August** meeting, a Nominating Committee shall meet and select a slate of officers and trustees. This committee shall consist of four RGVRRM members. Two of these members will be carry over trustees, one of which will serve as chairman, as nominated by the President and confirmed by the remainder of the board by majority vote. The two confirmed trustees shall select two members who are not currently serving on the board or seeking nomination.

3. At the regular **August** meeting, the Nominating Committee shall announce their slate of candidates, then the presiding officer shall call for additional nominations from the floor. It will be the job of the Nominating Committee chairman to contact those nominated from the floor that were not present, if any, and ask those individuals if they will accept the nomination. If they accept, those names will be added to the ballot of candidates selected by the Nominating Committee.

## **\*\* AS IS:**

### Article XX- Date of These By-Laws

These By-Laws are dated September 14, 2011, approved by the membership on August 18, 2011, and are known as the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, Inc. Bylaws - of 2011.

## **\*\* PROPOSED**

### Article XX- Date of These By-Laws

These By-Laws are dated **November 20, 2014**, approved by the membership on **November 20, 2014**, and are known as the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, Inc. Bylaws - of 2014.

**THIS IS YOUR OFFICIAL 2014 BALLOT** **ALL BALLOTS ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 20**



In accordance with Articles III and IV of the Museum By-Laws, the Nominating Committee has nominated candidates for election to fill the expiring terms of the Officers of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. The names of those selected by the committee are listed below. Space is provided for write-in candidates who must be current members of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum. **Vote for candidate position by placing an “X” in the appropriate box [ ].**

Vote for THREE candidates

## Candidates for PRESIDENT

Vote for ONE candidate

### Candidates for VICE PRESIDENT

Vote for ONE candidate

## Candidates for TREASURER

Vote for ONE candidate

### Candidates for RECORDING SECRETARY

Vote for ONE candidate

### Candidates for CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Vote for ONE candidate

## QUESTION #1

Should the R&GVRRM re-establish and re-develop a railroad reference library that is funded from our treasury and staffed by our members?

*The elections will take place during the November 20 membership meeting.*

*Please bring your ballot with you, or mail your ballot to:*

*RGVRRM Ballot, P.O. Box 23326, Rochester, NY 14692*

RGVRRM BALLOT  
P.O. BOX 23326  
ROCHESTER, NY 14692

PLEASE  
PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

---

---

---



Please see opposite side for 2014 RGVRRM Ballot  
Thank you for taking the time to vote.  
ALL BALLOTS ARE DUE NOVEMBER 20, 2014

# Enjoy Special Christmas Train Rides from Rochester to the North Pole!

Take a ride back to another time and create special memories with your family this holiday season! Join the New York Museum of Transportation and the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum for special Christmas events weekends in December!

On December 6-7 and 20-21, we invite you to ride our special trains to the "North Pole" where you will disembark to meet Santa and enjoy a cup of delicious hot chocolate. After your visit with Santa, the train will be ready to whisk you back home. A diesel train pulling authentically restored cabooses will depart from Industry on December 6 and 20, while our vintage electric trolley will depart from NYMT on December 20 and 21. Trains will depart on the hour at 5:00, 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00, and tickets must be purchased in advance at [www.rgvrrm.org/santa](http://www.rgvrrm.org/santa). **Tickets are \$15.00 each for ages 3 and above, and must be purchased in advance.**



**Tickets available  
by pre-sale only!**



**December 6 and 20 - Departs Industry Depot**  
Santa Train from Industry to North Pole

**December 7 and 21 - Departs NYMT**  
Santa Trolley from NYMT to North Pole

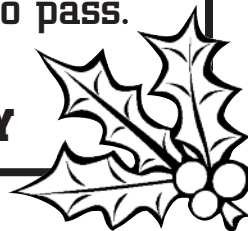
**To learn more and buy your tickets please visit  
[www.rgvrrm.org/santa](http://www.rgvrrm.org/santa)**

## *Holiday Open House - Friday, Dec. 5*

Enjoy some holiday cheer in the warm festive atmosphere of our restored country depot. Bring a dish or other refreshments to pass.

Open to all friends and family! 6:30-9:30 P.M.

**Industry Depot • 282 Rush-Scottsville Road • Rush, NY**



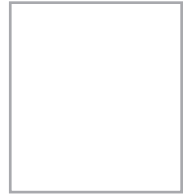
**MATERIALS SUBMISSIONS:** We welcome your contributions to The Semaphore! Any materials related to the activities of the Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum, as well as the history of Rochester's railroads are welcome for publication in THE SEMAPHORE. All written materials should be submitted as Microsoft Word or plain text documents, and all photographs as high-resolution JPEG files. Materials and inquiries should be emailed to the Editor at [ovondrak@yahoo.com](mailto:ovondrak@yahoo.com) or call (585) 820-2341.





**THE SEMAPHORE**

ROCHESTER & GENESEE VALLEY RAILROAD MUSEUM  
P.O. BOX 23326  
ROCHESTER, NY 14692-3326



This Month's Meeting:

**November 20**

7:30 PM at 40&8 Club

933 University Ave., Rochester NY

Next Month's Meeting:

**December 18**

7:30 PM at 40&8 Club

933 University Ave., Rochester NY



— Like us on Facebook: [facebook.com/rgvrrm](https://facebook.com/rgvrrm) —



The latest round of CSX signal upgrades took place November 2-3 on the former New York Central main line between Pixley Road and Chili Jct. (CP 382). The upgrades are part of the federally mandated upgrade program for all railroads that handle hazmat and scheduled passenger train movements. The new signals rely on LED lighting and do not have any moving parts, saving on maintenance. OTTO VONDRAK PHOTO