



Livonia, Avon & Lakevilleno. 428 is kicking up the powder at the S-curves as it leads the northbound road freight at Pole Bridge Road in Avon, N.Y., on December 30, 2014. The LA&L is celebrating 50 years of service in 2015. MIKE STELLPFLUG PHOTO

# New Year, New Plans

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This past year has been a very good year at the museum, with continued safe operation and many happy visitors. This doesn't come without a lot of hard work, and a lot of volunteers. We can not keep this up without your support. We are taking steps to improve our administrative structure at the museum and to try to make it easier to volunteer or help in other ways. It is our goal to shift some of the responsibility away from our board members and to get more of our members involved.

Over the next few months we will be looking to fill a few key positions. Track Superintendent is one of them. This job calls for helping budget and plan the track work on our railroad throughout the year. It also involves communicating with those doing the work, and coordinating with the NYMT on projects that affect our joint

operation. Without track, there's no trains!

We also are looking for folks to help with visitors operations, from track car operators, to train crews, and depot guides. Training is available for all positions.

The next Rules Class will be announced soon. We would like **ALL volunteers** to have at least basic safety and radio training, even if you're not running trains.

If you don't think you are up for operations, the NYMT is always looking for people to run the register at the gift shop. Visitor operations at NYMT are an important part of our joint operating season, and we need your help. Have questions or comments? Call me at (716) 474-2833 or by email at [mdow@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mdow@rochester.rr.com).

Happy New Year!

—Mike Dow,  
 Museum President





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

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RENDERING COURTESY NYSDOT

## Portageville Bridge Project Approved

On December 30, 2014, New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced federal approval of the plan to build a new arch bridge to replace the historic Portageville Bridge carrying the Norfolk Southern Railway Southern Tier Line over the Genesee River in Letchworth State Park. The Federal Highway Administration has issued a Record of Decision for design and construction of the new bridge, which spans between Portage in Livingston County and Genesee Falls in Wyoming County.

This federal approval completes the last step of the project's environmental impact review and allows the railroad to move forward with implementing a plan to build a new bridge. The Final Environmental Impact Statement was issued on December 16, 2014, and contains a list of environmental impacts and other issues pertaining to construction as well as the required mitigation measures.

A new bridge will be constructed just to the south of the existing structure. Norfolk Southern will build an arch structure that will not only provide a safer, more modern rail bridge, but will also complement the natural beauty of Letchworth State Park and provide a stunning

scene over the gorge. Construction is expected to get underway in 2015 and will take approximately three years.

The existing bridge was built in 1875 and has been a prominent feature in Letchworth State Park for more than a century. The current bridge will be removed upon completion of the new arch span.

Construction of the new rail bridge is expected to cost approximately \$71 million. NYSDOT has contributed \$3 million in design costs and has secured \$12.5 million of state and federal funding for construction costs. The balance would be provided by the railroad. The funding includes a grant of \$2 million from the Finger Lakes Regional Economic Development Council.

The bridge was identified in the 2009 New York State Rail Plan as one of the ten most significant rail bottlenecks in the state. In 2011, the Regional Economic Development Council identified replacement of the bridge among their five-year projects to address barriers to economic growth in their Strategic Plan.

More information is available on the project website at [www.dot.ny.gov/portagevillebridge](http://www.dot.ny.gov/portagevillebridge).

#### 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:

## February 19

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

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Even in the dead of winter, work continues on our Lehigh Valley caboose! Charlie Marks is squaring up the holes for new wooden planks on January 10, 2015. He has also cut the holes back to line up over a floor brace. JOE NUGENT PHOTO

## MUSEUM MANAGER'S UPDATE

I hope 2015 finds everyone well! With the Holidays behind us and the cold winds of winter blowing in, things obviously slow down at the Museum. However, it is a busy time for organizing and planning for the season ahead. One area we need to address this winter is filling some openings in the organizational structure for Superintendents and Department leaders. There is great opportunity here to help our organization grow and run smoother.

As museum manager, I often hear grumblings of things not getting taken care of or not addressed in a timely manner. Presently, a very few do a lot of the behind the scenes work and simply run out of time to look after every little detail going on. Getting involved is a great way for you to help spread some of the responsibility.

We do not have anyone signed up for the following Superintendent positions: Mechanical; Construction; Track & Right of Way; and Building & Grounds. There are many other Department spots vacant as well. Having a "title" is not a scary thing, it mainly entails working with me to form a budget once a year and makes sure that no job large or small is overlooked by the museum administration. Both are beneficial to you and our organization.

Unfortunately, if these, and other posi-

tions do not get filled, it puts more on the plates of others. It may take away some of the flexibility we all like to have in what projects you work on and how to do them. Plus, if you don't like the way a certain area is being managed, now is your time to step up and make a difference.

So, please consider in what area you may be interested in helping and get in touch with me for a no obligation consultation! Operators are standing by: Feel free to call me at (585) 721-1377 or contact me by email at [mwilczek@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mwilczek@rochester.rr.com). I would be happy to discuss any other museum projects with you as well. Every contribution counts!

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Manager

## MUSEUM EXPENSES: A POLICY REMINDER

This is a reminder that any expenses more than \$250.00 must be approved by the museum board of trustees, or they are not eligible for reimbursement.

—Mark Wilczek, Museum Manager

## WELCOME DAVE BOSWELL


Please welcome Dave Boswell as our newest member of our Board of Trustees

Please consider him yet another point of contact with your museum administration. We would like to thank Don Wawrzyniak for his years of service as a Trustee. While Don is leaving the board, he will continue to manage our "Company Stores" book sales at our monthly meetings as well as our local train show appearances.

## JOINT BOARD MEETING

Your board will be meeting with the NYMT board on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 6:00 p.m. at the 40&8 Club.

## RGVRRM BOARD MEETING

The next Board of Trustees meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2015. Meetings are held at the 40&8 Club, 933 University Ave., Rochester, starting at 6:00 p.m. 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. 

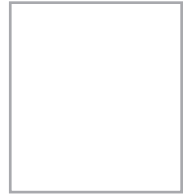
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**THE SEMAPHORE**

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



**This Month's Meeting:**

**January 15**

**7:30 PM at 40&8 Club**

**933 University Ave., Rochester NY**

**Next Month's Meeting:**

**February 19**

**7:30 PM at 40&8 Club**

**933 University Ave., Rochester NY**

*Have you sent in your  
membership renewal yet?*

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



An NS SD70ACe leads a train of Herzog hoppers across the Portage Bridge on a wet, rainy morning in Letchworth State Park on October 17, 2014. The new Portageville Bridge project has been approved, construction will start during the summer of 2015 (see page 2). MIKE STELLPFLUG PHOTO