

NRHS 2026 Convention – Ohio Railroad History

By MIKE YUHAS, *Convention Chair, NRHS*



- Monday, September 21: NRHS business meetings (daytime), followed by a gala opening reception, featuring a compelling speaker discussing a relevant railroad topic. Hors d'oeuvres, beer/wine.
- Tuesday, September 22: Board our bus for the ride to Marion, where we will spend a couple hours watching Norfolk Southern and CSX trains on the three mainlines that cross here. After lunch, it's off to Bellevue for a visit to the Mad River & NKP Railroad Museum.
- Wednesday, September 23: Our day begins with a Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad excursion from Cleveland to Akron and return, with lunch on the train. Afterward, we'll visit the shop of the Midwest Railroad Preservation Society, where we will observe the progress on GTW 4070 and Reading 2100 (American Freedom Train 250) and others.
- Thursday, September 24: No visit to Ohio would be complete without a tour of the Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum in Sugarcreek! We've arranged for access to areas not normally seen by the public. One of their locomotives will be fired up, and we'll ride a short distance behind it. We'll enjoy a buffet at a nearby Amish restaurant.
- Friday, September 25: Our group will be immersed in a rare behind-the-scenes tour of the Wabtec (former GE) locomotive factory in Erie, Pennsylvania. Lunch included. *Note: attendance for this activity is limited, so be sure to sign up early!*
- Most evenings will feature seminars presented by noted historians and photographers.
- *All events are subject to change.*

New Tours Added: Wed. Sept. 23, Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Fitzwater Shops. Fri. Sept. 25, Special GCRTA Tour.

By Convention Committee, NRHS

Another tour has been added to the 2026 NRHS convention. The Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority will open its railcar maintenance facility to NRHS delegates on Friday morning, September 25.

GCRTA is in the midst of an ambitious program to unify its railcar fleet. Today, the Red Line is served by a fleet of 40 high-floor heavy rail vehicles built by Tokyu in 1984-85; the Blue and Green Lines operate with 29 Breda low-floor light rail vehicles commissioned beginning in 1981. For the future, Siemens Mobility is building 54 new cars that will be utilized on all GCRTA lines. First deliveries are expected later in 2026; they are scheduled to be placed in service on the Red line in summer 2027.

This tour is your opportunity to get up close to the 40+ year old GCRTA fleets. Our bus leaves the hotel at 7:30 am September 25, and returns at about 9:30 am. This will leave you plenty of time to board the bus to the Wabtec late tour at 10:00 am. The pricing for the GCRTA tour is \$14 (\$12 if ordered before August 11).

Good news for attendees of the 2026 NRHS convention in Cleveland: The Wednesday, September 23 trip will begin with a tour of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's Fitzwater maintenance shop! The bus will now depart at 7:30 am to accommodate this extra experience.

Convention Hotel – Crowne Plaza Cleveland

By Convention Committee, NRHS

The convention is headquartered at the Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square, 1260 Euclid Avenue. The NRHS rate is \$189 per night plus taxes, with valet parking available at \$47/night featuring full in and out privileges. Please [book early](#) as rooms are limited.

AUGUST 2026

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NRHS Events, Conventions, Conference

NRHS 2026 Conference - September 21 to 25, 2026

Links to Convention brochure, convention headquarters and registration are available on the NRHS website.

- **Brochure** and **Registration** - Members may purchase reservations for any of the trips through their member portal at: <https://secure.nrhs.com> (login with your email address)
- **Convention headquarters** hotel is the *Crowne Plaza Cleveland at Playhouse Square*, 1260 Euclid Avenue. The NRHS rate is \$189 per night plus taxes, with valet parking available at \$47/night.

About the NRHS News

NRHS News is published nine times a year by the National Railway Historical Society. Six full-color issues are published and posted on the NRHS web site. The three remaining issues are printed in black-and-white and mailed to members across the year. On occasion, a “special” issue might be published. All issues are available (pdf file) online at <https://admin.nrhs.com/NRHSNews/>

Valli Hoski, Harrisburg Chapter NRHS, Editor. Elizabeth Guenzler, Central Coast Chapter NRHS, Associate Editor. Alex Mayes, Potomac Chapter NRHS, Content Assistant. Eileen Weber, St. Louis Chapter NRHS, Editorial Assistant. Email submissions to News@nrhs.com or mail to NRHS News, c/o Valli Hoski, P.O. Box 234, York Springs, PA, 17372.

The address for the Society is: National Railway Historical Society, Inc., 505 South Lenola Road, Suite 226, Moorestown, NJ 08057. Membership information changes should be sent to Doug Scott at Membership@nrhs.com. Membership dues should be mailed to NRHS - Membership, PO Box 31074, St. Louis, MO 63131-0074 or you may join or renew online at www.NRHS.com/membership.

President's Update

By *TONY WHITE, President, NRHS*

Membership and Communications

Hello, members. It has been some time since my last News article, and I'm pleased to report that our volunteers and I continue to keep the NRHS running smoothly.

Membership remains a priority. Like many organizations, we are seeing an aging membership.

While we welcome new members each month, we have also lose longtime friends. If you are aware of a member who passed, please let us know so we can extend condolences and update our records.

We continue to shift communications to email to reduce costs and improve timeliness. While some members still receive printed materials, email allows us to deliver information more quickly, reduce mailing expenses and provide the News in full color.

Make your voice heard. Speak up, let us know your thoughts. You can reach us via email or through the NRHS phone line. This information is on our website at <http://www.nrhs.com>

Leadership Elections

This year's election cycle includes all nine director positions for a two-year term and the office of President for a four-year term. The Vice President also serves a four-year term, but the election is staggered to maintain leadership continuity. The next elections will be done electronically.

Financial Stability and Programs

Thanks to your dues and donations, the NRHS remains financially stable. Heritage Grants demand continues to exceed available donations. The program is designed to support smaller nonprofits, where even modest amounts can make a significant impact. Funding has increased for the past six years and we are looking to increase it again next year.

RailCamp interest remains high, with 68 applications for 36 spots this year.

Upcoming Convention

The annual convention will be in Cleveland from September 21-25. As always, it promises to be an exciting opportunity to reconnect with friends. For 2027, Bart Jennings and his wife Sarah will join Mike Yuhas the Convention Chair, on the committee.

Spring Conference Recap

Our recent Spring Conference, was hosted by the Promontory Chapter. The Chapter celebrated its 60-year anniversary. Highlights included a visit to the Ogden Union Station where the chapter owns several pieces of equipment. We made a trip to the Heber Valley Railroad where they added three special cars to the trainset for the NRHS. They were: 503 – Plaza Santa Fe (AT&SF), 1291 – Royal Gorge (D&RGW) and 4729 – Silver Scene (CB&Q). The surrounding area also offered many attractions, leading some members to extend their stays.

Any member may attend these conferences. Like the conventions, you get to experience new places, foods and get caught up with friends. Come join the meetings and watch us work.

RailCamp 2026 – Congratulations from the President

By TONY WHITE, President, NRHS

The 2026 RailCamp program was successful and there were no injuries. Our partners, as always, did a wonderful job. The campers were totally satisfied. This year we had the largest group ever of kids who have not seen train traveling over 79 mph.

A big thank you to the Perryville Chapter who allowed us to railfan from their facility where there were no limits on track speed. We saw plenty of Acela's and Next Gen's traveling 12,5 and 135 mph respectively.

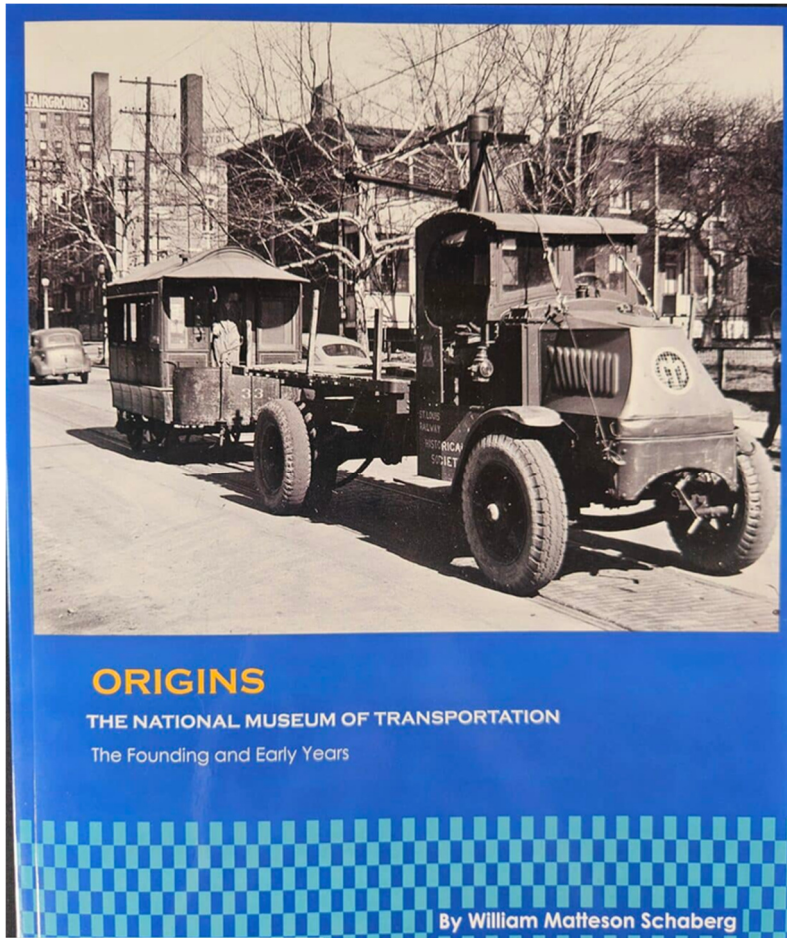
The referrals from Chapters were all excellent! Washington DC, George L Carter, Harrisburg, Lackawanna, Tidewater, and Wisconsin all sent member campers. A big "Thank You" to those chapters. Perhaps more chapters will sponsor member children, as they have turned out to be some of our best.

Watch for more details forthcoming in the News. Now that I'm finally back home and have WiFi, I will attempt to go through over 300 emails that I've received. The school's WiFi would occasionally work, but our schedule wouldn't allow me to do much email work. I also took several phone calls during the week about the RailCamp program out west.

	Stay Connected. Stay involved. Make your voice heard.
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Chapter Special Announcements

Origins of the National Museum of Transportation



ORIGINS OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TRANSPORTATION: THE FOUNDING AND EARLY YEARS

\$25.00

By William Matteson Schaberg

By St. Louis Chapter NRHS Member William Schaberg

- This is a fascinating account of the founding of the museum, with many details and photos on the early collection, and the people involved.
- The St. Louis Chapter NRHS provided the funding for book printing.

The book is \$25.00 each.

All proceeds go directly to the National Museum of Transportation.

Books can be purchased in the Museum's Gift Shop, or online at <https://tnmot.org/product/origins-of-the-national-museum-of-transportation-the-founding-and-early-years/>

Central Iowa Inter-Urban, The History of the Inter-Urban Railway Company

By *DANA GREFE*, NRHS-Iowa Chapter IRHS

Several years ago, Ronald D. Sims and his wife Judy sold their home and moved into smaller living quarters. This created the opportunity for Ron to donate his railroad research to interested parties. I was lucky to receive his collection of documents on the Des Moines & Central Iowa Railway (**Inter-Urban/DM&CI RR**).

After sitting on shelves in my museum for a year, I decided that the text Ron had researched and written for over 40 years had to be published. Ron had lost interest.

After conferring with Ron's son John, he too, was all for finishing the book. We met with Ron to discuss the plan and he was "all in." John and his wife, Ann did text revisions, while Ron and I picked out photos and did captions. The book started coming together. I had photos spread over many display cases in the museum and began the process of laying them out in the correct sequence for the book.

After making many trips to Boone and countless hours along with Mike Wendel, we edited the text and began formatting the book. Many trips to Ron's home for corrections were a necessity for accuracy and "fine tuning" the text and captions. Mike and I are so glad we decided to do this for Ron as there has not been a book written on the defining history of the Inter-Urban/DM&CI RR to date.

The book is titled: ***Central Iowa Inter-Urban, The History of the Inter-Urban Railway Company Serving Iowa's State Capital for 58 Years.***

The book contains 210 pages, with approximately 243 images and 13 blue line station maps, Perfect Bound with laminated covers. The book describes the birth and the ultimate end of the Inter-Urban/DM&CI RY. Included is a complete roster with many photos, memorabilia pieces, and most unique is a chapter devoted to the many accidents that befell the railroad. It seems that none were alike. Safety was definitely not observed back then.

As you read this book, please enjoy learning about the unique history of this electric interurban railroad. This is the only book written to date devoted entirely to the I-U/DM&CI. We are fortunate that Ron documented this history.

This book is being promoted and sold by the NRHS-Iowa Chapter and the Iowa Railroad Historical Society. Cost is \$50 or \$60 if being shipped. Thank you.

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Ames, IA 50010 Boone, IA 50036
Dana L. Grefe

All Aboard Central Iowa History

Central Iowa Interurban

The History of the Inter-Urban Railway Company
Serving Iowa's State Capital for 58 Years



By
Ronald D. Sims

- ◆ 210 Pages
- ◆ 243 Images
- ◆ 13 Blueline maps

Perfect bound book,
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P.O. Box 603
Boone, IA 50036

Sponsored by the NRHS Iowa Chapter and the Iowa Railroad Historical Society

Before highways connected our communities, Inter-Urban electric trains zipped across the Iowa landscape—linking Des Moines, Colfax, Perry, and Woodward.

Author Ron Sims takes us back on a journey detailing the life of this once vital electric short line railroad.

At the turn of the 20th century in Central Iowa, there was an electric railway that was recognized as a leader in the new field of interurban transit. Originating from the Des Moines streetcar system, the line utilized fast, efficient electric cars to move people and freight between Des Moines and the communities of Perry, Woodward, and Colfax.

An early proponent of carload freight transport, the Inter-Urban Railway used electric locomotives to pull cars of freight to interchange with the steam railroads in Des Moines. This relationship ultimately allowed the line to survive after most electric railways had been abandoned, until it was purchased by the Chicago and North Western Railway.

The history in this book comes from the lifelong interest and research of Des Moines native, Ronald D. Sims and contains maps, rosters, and photos from his massive railroadiana collection. It traces the early history of the first electric lines through the heyday of electric transit, to the end of passenger service in the 1940s, and through the adoption of diesel locomotives as a freight-only short line railroad. Through mergers and purchases, part of the line is still operated today as part of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Rails North - Lehigh Valley Railroad 2027 Calendar



RAILS NORTH

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROAD

2027 CALENDAR



The Central New York Chapter, NRHS, is a historical and educational group dedicated to enhancing your enjoyment, knowledge, and involvement with railroads in and around Central New York. The Chapter was incorporated in the State of New York on September 19, 1966, as a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. As such, contributions to the Chapter are tax deductible.

The CNY Chapter is involved in equipment and locomotive restoration, model train displays, railfan excursions, operation of two railroad station museums, a research library and history archives. Many of our accomplishments are achieved by volunteers from within our ranks. Your support is needed. Join today!



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December

Rails North – Lehigh Valley Railroad 2027

2027 Calendar published by the
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\$16.50

All proceeds from sale of this
calendar is used to further preserve
local railroad history. **THANK YOU!**



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Presented by the Central New York Chapter National Railway Historical Society

The Back Page

By ALEX MAYES, Potomac Chapter NRHS



Photograph courtesy of Alex Mayes

“DIXIE LIMITED” - A pair of Southern Railway FP7s led the “Dixie Limited” excursion through Burkeville, VA on the branch line between Richmond and Keysville, VA on August 7, 1982.

This trip was sponsored by the Old Dominion Chapter NRHS and departed from the chapter’s ex-Southern Railway’s Hull Street station in Richmond. At Keysville the passengers were treated to live country music and an old-fashioned southern barbeque.

This line was originally the Richmond & Danville Railroad’s main line, completed in 1856 and absorbed into Southern Railway in 1894. The line is currently operated by the Virginia Southern Railroad, a shortline railroad division of the North Carolina and Virginia Railroad, a subsidiary of the Genesee & Wyoming.

Supporting information for this article was found on the internet.