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**Dear Member:**

**It's Time To Renew Your Shore Line Membership for 2019**

Thank you for being a Shore Line member in 2018. We are pleased to announce that there will be NO increase in dues for 2019 memberships. There is a \$5 incentive to pay your 2019 dues before December 31, 2018. Regular dues for 2019 paid before December 31, 2018, are \$32. After that date, the 2019 regular dues are \$37.

**Thank You for Your Support of Shore Line in 2018**

Four issues of *First & Fastest*, each 80 pages, were published during the past 12 months. We continue to receive rave reviews from our members and readers, especially regarding the Summer issue. "A Tale of Two Streamliners" and "Creating the Land of the Burlingtons" were very well received. Research in 100-year-old company correspondence files determined that South Shore Line's freight service started in 1914, not 1916, resulting in the "Early South Shore Line Freight" article that appeared in the Autumn issue. By December, we will have work completed on the third Dispatch telling the story of more Chicago Surface Lines routes in Chicago's neighborhoods.

Shore Line is in the enviable position of having significant and wonderful support from its members. We achieved our challenge goal for 2018 — 80 sponsored pages — a complete issue! We wish to thank the 68 members who contributed sponsorships for these 80 pages, an all-time record number. The financial value of page sponsorships is significant. Those who made contributions to Shore Line in 2018 will be recognized in Dispatch 9, which will be published in early 2019.

Your memberships and contributions provide Shore Line with a very successful financial model and the ability to keep the regular membership rate low. This has allowed us to sustain 80-page issues, more pages per issue than virtually all other railroad historical society publications, and to publish our Dispatch series. It is also worth noting that Shore Line has one of the largest memberships of regionally or single-railroad focused railroad historical societies. Thank you for your continued support.

**Sustaining and Growing Our Membership**

Perhaps the best news of 2018 is that we had more than 85 people become new members of Shore Line. This is certainly encouraging as we continue to lose members due to aging. We are very fortunate to have only a small net drop in total membership. Once people see our publications, they find that the articles are well researched with excellent writing and quality illustrations. In print or on the web site, the quality stands out. People can visit us on Facebook as well.

Our challenge, long term, continues to be to attract young people immersed in electronic media to join and support Shore Line. We ask every member to encourage anyone who might be interested in our publications to become a member of Shore Line and/or purchase an individual issue of *First & Fastest* or a Dispatch. We need each of you to become a marketing representative for Shore Line to grow and sustain our organization.

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## Shore Line Membership Letter *(continued)*

### **Our Publications Make Great Gifts**

Gift memberships are a great way to both attract new members to Shore Line and present a gift to a friend. They are a gift that keeps on giving over the course of the year. With the holiday season approaching, may we suggest that you also consider Dispatches as gifts for family and friends? This may be yet another way to encourage them to join Shore Line. We are making available a special offer on “bundles” of Dispatches. At the member’s price you are receiving approximately a 50% discount. Please visit our website at [shore-line.org](http://shore-line.org) for the list of available publications, ordering information and current discounts.

### **What Lies Ahead in 2019?**

Dispatch 9 will be distributed, and John Nicholson is working with Tom Jervan on articles on the North Shore Line and Milwaukee Electric. Walter Keevil will be working with Ed Tobin on North Shore Line articles. We hope to have some more articles on the rich history of suburban train operations in Chicago. The North Shore Line had extensive local and interurban bus operations to feed its interurban line as well as move people within North Chicago and Waukegan. Michael McGowen’s research in commerce commission files is an ongoing long-term project. Bruce Moffat continues to find more interesting things on rapid transit operations in Chicago. Richard Begley and George Canary are finding more and more on Chicago Surface Lines. We continue to document the history of the Chicago Aurora & Elgin and South Shore Lines. There is a growing interest in Metra’s current operations on the part of younger members. The good news is there is plenty of material for future articles.

### **Changes in the Board of Directors**

After 20 years of service, Bill Schwartz is retiring as a director and the treasurer. Bob Bresse-Rodenkirk is retiring as the corporate secretary and is continuing as a director. John Nicholson has been appointed to the board. Walter Keevil is now the treasurer, and Bruce Moffat is now the corporate secretary. We thank Bill and Bob for their dedicated and faithful service.

### **The 2019 Membership Renewal Process**

Again, for 2019, we ask you to specify how you wish to receive *First & Fastest*. You may choose either the traditional **PRINT** format, **DIGITAL** format, or **BOTH** print and digital formats. Members choosing Digital and Both Print+Digital formats must renew online. For instructions, please see our website at [shore-line.org](http://shore-line.org).

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We look forward to the upcoming year and remain dedicated to publishing the premier magazine in its field.

With best regards,  
Your Shore Line Board of Directors

Norman Carlson, *President*  
Edward Konecki, *Vice President*  
Walter R. Keevil, *Treasurer*  
Bruce G. Moffat, *Secretary*

Richard F. Begley, *Controller*  
Bob Bresse-Rodenkirk, *Director*  
Jon Davis, *Director*  
Raymond DeGroot, *Director*

Graham C. Garfield, *Director*  
George E. Canary, *Director*  
John Nicholson, *Director*