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**Dear Member:**

### **It's Time To Renew Your Shore Line Membership for 2020**

Thank you for being a member of Shore Line in 2019. You are part of a growing organization. For the first time in years, Shore Line had a modest growth in its membership. Although the growth was modest, it is in contrast to the decline suffered by many other rail-oriented organizations.

We are pleased to announce again, that there will be **NO increase** in dues for 2020 membership for those people who receive their mail at a United States postal address. For those of you with a U.S. address, if you pay your 2020 dues before December 31, 2019, your regular dues payment will be \$32. This is a \$5 incentive bonus to pay early. If you pay your 2020 dues in 2020 the dues will be \$37.

Due to incredibly significant increases in international postal rates, we regretfully need to increase the dues for those 2020 international members (including Canadian members) who wish to receive *First & Fastest* in print format or in our combo print/digital format. If you have a postal mailing address outside of the United States, the 2020 international dues rate will be \$82 for print format only and \$92 for our combo print/digital format. There is no increase in dues for international members who wish to receive *First & Fastest* in our digital PDF format only. The 2020 dues rate for international members who choose the digital PDF format will remain \$32 when paid before December 31, 2019, and \$37 if paid after that date.

To continue the growth of Shore Line's membership, we ask that you consider making gift memberships. We also ask that you encourage your friends who are interested in railroads to consider joining Shore Line. Obviously, maintaining and growing Shore Line's membership assures the future success of Shore Line.

### **Thank You for Your Continued Support of Shore Line in 2019**

Shore Line greatly benefits from those members who are page sponsors, sustaining or contributing members. In 2019, 72 members sponsored a total of 85 pages, more than the page content of a single *First & Fastest* issue. Those members were recognized in the Autumn 2019 issue of *First & Fastest*. Another 438 members joined in one of the two premium membership categories. To further assist financially, 202 members made a contribution in addition to paying their membership dues. These members will be recognized in Dispatch 10 when it is published. As a result of this financial support, Shore Line is in very good financial condition.

You have benefitted from this support by receiving four 80-page issues of *First & Fastest*, more pages documenting rail history and current events than many other railroad historical society publications. Member contributions support the Dispatch series publications and provide for a very attractive cover price, thus increasing the benefits that members receive. We like telling you that Shore Line has one of the largest memberships of any regionally or single-focused railroad historical societies. We believe that this growth in membership is testimony to the quality of Shore Line's publications.

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## Shore Line Membership Letter *(continued)*

### Need Help Finding Gifts?

A gift membership in Shore Line will bring a gift of a copy of *First & Fastest* to your family member or friend four times in 2020. Dispatch publications also make great gifts. Our three Dispatches on Chicago Surface Lines are a unique gift opportunity. They are of interest to anyone who is interested in the history of Chicago, especially the role of neighborhoods in daily life and the culture of Chicago. Shore Line has a special offer of a bundle of all three CSL Dispatches for \$50, postage included when mailed to a United States postal address. This could be a wonderful solution of a gift that is both different and lasting.

### What's Ahead in 2020?

*First & Fastest's* coverage will include more detailed articles and photo essays of passenger service past and present in Chicago and the Midwestern area surrounding Chicago. There will be more focus on the Illinois Terminal with photographs dating from the 1930s taken by, or in the collections of, Bob Mehlenbeck and Bill Janssen. Articles on CSL, CRT, The Big Three Interurbans and Milwaukee Electric will continue to be featured. The growing interest in Metra and the predecessor railroads that now constitute the Metra system provides the impetus for forthcoming articles. There are Dispatch publications in process as well. Creation of Dispatches is a multi-year effort due to the amount of research and data collection that is necessary so we hesitate to announce the subjects before such work is well along.

### The 2020 Membership Renewal Process

Again, for 2020, 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

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