SHORE LINE
INTERURBAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Dear Member:

Shore Line had a very successful year in 2026 due to your outstanding support. We are pleased to announce that there will be no dues increases for 2027. We have over 90 new members (a recent record) as a result of our social media presence. We wish to thank Lou Gerard for his daily postings. Ed Konecki, Bruce Moffat, Patty Moyer and Dave Zeman are also involved in maintaining our social media presence. In summary, 2026 has been a very good year for Shore Line.

Our financial policy is to keep the regular dues as low as possible in these challenging economic times. Shore Line relies on those members who renew in the premium dues and page sponsor categories and those who make additional contributions as their contributions allow us to avoid increases in regular dues. In 2025 Shore Line was the beneficiary of 93 people and one fundraising event that resulted in 126 pages being sponsored. For the past decade, Shore Line has been the beneficiary of George S. Kush's grant to provide funding that allows us to have an all-color 16-page Winter insert. This year 399 members joined in the two premium membership categories. **Thank you very much to all of you.** For 2027 please consider renewing in a premium category, being a page sponsor or a contributor.

In 2026 we published 80 pages in each of the four quarterly issues of *First & Fastest.* We also published Dispatch 16, *A Celebration of 100th Anniversaries.* Central Electric Railfans' Association (CERA) purchased Dispatch 16 for distribution to their members. We thank CERA for making Dispatch 16 available to their members. Your editorial staff received many comments on *First & Fastest* throughout the year regarding the diversity of articles, the depth of the research and the quality of the photographs, the paper and printing.

During 2026 Raymond DeGroote retired from Shore Line's Board of Directors after almost two decades of service. He is now a Director Emeritus. For decades Ray has been a director of CERA and the Omnibus Society of America (OSA). Shore Line thanks Ray for his dedicated service to Shore Line as well as CERA and OSA.

The most amazing thing that happened in 2026 was the return of Illinois Central (IC) 1926 Multiple-Unit car pair 1198 and 1380 from IRM to Metra. The purpose of their return was Metra's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the electrification of what is now Metra Electric. On Thursday July 23rd there was a presentation to the media and a public open house of the three sets of equipment that have been operated by the IC and Metra over the past 100 years. This event was held at Millennium (Randolph Street) Station. Newspaper, television and social media coverage was extensive.

The Friends of Pullman National Historical Park's 2026 Railroad Days event was held on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26. Typically this event has Pullman-built intercity cars on display. This year the three sets of IC/Metra Electric cars and South Shore car 3 were staged at the 111th Street Pullman Station. Posters documenting South Shore's 118-year history were on display. There was a record number of attendees at Pullman. Some people waited in line as long as one hour to tour the cars. The number of people who visited the cars was incredible and exceeded everyone's expectation.

These events including moving the cars from and back to IRM are covered in *First & Fastest* and Dispatch 16, *A Celebration of 100th Anniversaries.* South Shore's re-electrification and the opening of North Shore's Skokie Valley Route are also covered in Dispatch 16.

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Shore Line members were involved in all aspects of these celebrations. To move the cars from IRM to Metra and back involved four railroads; Union Pacific, Metra, Amtrak and Canadian National/IC. Any attempt to move 100-year-old cars is complicated and involved mechanical, transportation and administrative people of the four railroads. The IC cars have friction journal bearings which were outlawed from being interchanged effective January 1, 1995. Before the cars could be moved the IC cars had to meet Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) interchange mechanical standards. An FRA Mechanical Inspection was required before the IC cars left IRM to determine that they met the FRA standards and approve them for movement over the national railroad system.

2027 Dues

2027 Regular and Contributing dues remain at $44.00 and $57.00, respectively. Sustaining memberships are $90.00. You can sponsor a page for $250.00. As a regular member, you will save $5.00 if you pay your 2027 dues before December 31, 2026. Regular member dues paid before December 31, 2026, are $39.00. By renewing early, you assist Shore Line in reducing its costs.

Order Using Shore Line's Online Store

Last year, Shore Line introduced a new online store on the Shore Line website. **To order online,** please click on the "STORE" tab of the menu or go to **https://www.shore-line.org/store.html**. From this page, you will be able to easily purchase annual memberships, including gift memberships, order Dispatch publications, and make donations. The online store is set up with easy-to-use dropdown menus to allow you to select your membership category (Regular, Gift, International, Contributing, Sustaining, or Page Sponsor) as well as your preferred format (Print, Digital, or Both). The website also has a short video to explain how to order online.

To add a donation or a Dispatch publication to your order, simply click on the "Add Item" button. To receive discounted member pricing on a Dispatch publication, please enter the discount code: **MEMBER26**

To finish your order, enter your name, address, and credit card details on the secure payment form. You will receive an email receipt within minutes. We hope you will find the online store easy and convenient to use.

Please note that check payments are also accepted for members choosing the Print format of *First & Fastest.* Please return the enclosed membership form with your check, or visit the Membership page of the website for instructions.

In closing, may we say again **thank you for your very generous and continued loyalty and support.** We look forward to serving you in 2027.

With best regards,
Your Shore Line Board of Directors

Norman Carlson, *President*
Edward Konecki, *Vice President*
Walter R. Keevil, *Treasurer*
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