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Dear Member:

It's Time To Renew Your Shore Line Membership for 2021

Thank you for being a member of Shore Line in 2020. We are pleased to announce again that there will be **NO increase** in dues for 2021 membership for those people who receive their mail at United States postal addresses. If you pay your 2021 dues before December 31, 2020, your regular dues payment will be \$32. This is a \$5 incentive bonus to pay early. If you pay your 2021 dues in 2021, the price will be \$37.

To sustain Shore Line, 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. Our Dispatch publications are a wonderful gift opportunity.

We ask that you specify how you wish to receive *First & Fastest* in 2021. You may choose either the **PRINT** or **DIGITAL** formats or **BOTH** print and digital formats. If you choose Digital or both formats, you must renew online. For instructions, please see our website at shore-line.org.

2020 in Retrospective

2020 has been a very different year for all of us. Covid-19 has made simply living a normal life challenging. For those who lost loved ones, we extend our sympathy and condolences. Those who have loved ones or friends who have suffered from the disease, we wish them a speedy recovery. We hope that *First & Fastest* and our Dispatch publications have brought some sense of normalcy and reading enjoyment to your lives.

Four 80-page issues of *First & Fastest* will be published in 2020. You have already received three of them. Dispatch 10, *Chicago's Railroads in Transition: The Photography of Lou Gerard* presents 100 pages of Lou's creative photography. Taken over a period of almost 60 years showing the dramatic changes in Chicago's railroad scene, Lou presents traction, mainline railroads, steam-powered excursions and Great Lakes boats. If you do not have a copy, we urge you to purchase one at the membership price of \$23.00 including postage.

Thank You for Your Continued Support of Shore Line in 2020

Shore Line greatly benefits from those members who are page sponsors, sustaining or contributing members. In 2020, a grant from one member financed the winter insert in the Winter issue, and 75 members sponsored a total of 84 pages, more than the page content of a single *First & Fastest* issue. Those members were recognized in the Autumn 2020 issue of *First & Fastest*. Another 424 members joined in one of the two premium membership categories. To further assist financially, 221 members made a contribution in addition to paying their membership dues. These members will be recognized in Dispatch 11 when it is published. As a result of this wonderful financial support, Shore Line is in very good financial condition.

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Shore Line Membership Letter *(continued)*

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 publication 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 society. We believe that the membership size is testimony to the quality of Shore Line's publication. Thank you very much for your continuing support of Shore Line.

What's Ahead in 2021

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. The growing interest in Metra and the predecessor railroads that now constitute the Metra system provides the impetus for forthcoming articles. Metra's posting of the heritage locomotives on social media has resulted in thousands of views and responses. We need to find a way to attract young people to become members of Shore Line.

There will be more focus on 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.

We have a growing number of page sponsors requesting mainline railroad pages. We hope to attract members of all ages through diversity of topics and authors. There are two future Dispatch publications that are well along in editorial development. 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. We expect to publish at least one new Dispatch next year. We look forward to providing you with reading pleasure in 2021.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. We look forward to serving you in 2021 as we remain dedicated to continuing to publish the premier magazine in its field.

With best regards,
Your Shore Line Board of Directors

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