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Dear Member:

Thank You for Your Continued Support and Loyalty

Your continued support and loyalty are the strength of Shore Line. Your financial support has allowed Shore Line to have a great year in 2021 despite the lingering effects of Covid-19. Our membership grew to 1,858 people as of Labor Day 2021. This is 50 more members than in 2020. As noted in the Autumn 2021 issue of *First & Fastest*, there were 519 members who contributed beyond the Regular dues rate to become Page Sponsors and Sustaining and Contributing Members. There were 85 people who sponsored 103 pages, an all-time record. A special grant will finance the insert of winter photography in the Winter issue. In addition, 232 members contributed to the development of the Dispatch publications and the General Fund. Thank you very much to all of you. Your Board of Directors thanks every member for your continuous and generous support of our efforts.

First & Fastest and the Dispatch publications continue to receive rave reviews. *First & Fastest* is regarded by many as the **premier magazine in its field**. The diversity of articles and topics discussed as well as the depth of research and the quality of printing are among the very positive comments and compliments that we receive. We wish that we could find a way to make more people aware of the quality of our work to attract new members. All of us need to spread the word to people whom we think would be interested in railways that Shore Line covers. Please consider gift memberships or send us names of people who might be interested in joining. Shore Line will be pleased to contact them with or without mentioning your name as you desire.

It's Time to Renew Your Shore Line Membership for 2022

Thank you for being a Shore Line member in 2021. **There will be no dues increase in 2022.** This is due to the generosity of our members in 2021. Please consider becoming a Page Sponsor or a premium dues category member in 2022. This additional financial support from premium memberships will allow Shore Line to maintain the present dues levels. Shore Line's costs continue to rise and your Board of Directors tries to effectively manage its expenses. As a reminder, Page Sponsors choose the railroads that are featured on the pages they sponsor and also may give free gift memberships to new members.

If you are considering renewing your membership for 2022 as a regular member, there is a \$5.00 discount if you pay in 2021. If paid before December 31, 2021, your 2022 dues will be \$32.00. If paid after December 31, 2021, regular member dues are \$37.00.

You may choose either **PRINT** or **DIGITAL** formats of *First & Fastest* or **BOTH** Print and Digital formats. If you choose Both or Digital Only formats, you must renew online. For instructions and to renew electronically, please see and use our website at **shore-line.org**.

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Shore Line Membership Letter *(continued)*

2021 in Retrospective

2021 was a very successful year for Shore Line. Four 80-page issues of *First & Fastest* were published. Dispatches 11 and 12 were published as well. In addition, Dispatch 1 was reprinted. Dispatch 11, *From Garfield "L" to Blue Line Rapid Transit*, tells the story of the superhighway (as it was then called) coming to Chicago and creating a multi-modal transportation corridor in the United States. Together with Dispatch 1, *Cooperation Moves the Public*, these two publications tell the 125-year history of interurbans, rapid transit, freight railroads and vehicle traffic sharing the same right-of-way corridor. Dispatch 12, *Chicago Surface Lines: Linking Chicago's Neighborhoods III*, completes Shore Line's coverage in Dispatches of how streetcars brought Chicagoans together through providing transportation in almost all of Chicago's neighborhoods. In total, seven publications were printed in one year thanks to the hard work of many people.

Looking Ahead to 2022

Shore Line's greatest challenge is keeping *First & Fastest* relevant as the demographics of our readership change. Clearly there is considerable interest in the past, interurbans, streetcars and historic rapid transit and passenger train operations. More and more Shore Line is becoming the historians, explaining to people what it was like in those days. Meanwhile, we need to attract younger members who may be more interested in the present. There is a considerable and growing group of young people who are interested in Metra. The competition is the internet and the speed in which information and photographs can be shared at no cost.

Shore Line believes that the diversity of coverage is the key to success. We also must provide articles that are informative with quality reproduction of photographs. Thankfully, we have people who are willing to provide articles and their photography, past and present. We thank them for their contributions.

We must continue to attract new members. Many of our faithful members have departed. A simple fact of life. We ask again that you consider gift memberships, making people aware of Shore Line and encouraging them to join. We are working on a Dispatch for 2022 that will cover steam and diesels as well as traction that should appeal to a broad spectrum of people who are interested in various parts of railroading. This is pursuant to our core strategy of making Shore Line's publications appeal to a broader audience.

Thank you again for your support and loyalty. We look forward to serving you in 2022 as we remain dedicated to publishing the **premier magazine in its field**.

With best regards,
Your Shore Line Board of Directors

Norman Carlson, *President*
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