



November - December 2025
Volume 79, Number 6

THE PLS GAZETTE

A newsletter of the Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

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2025 Reflections

2025 was another great year at PLS. Run days and meets were well attended.

We had a good number of visiting live steamers that brought equipment and operated at the railroad. Food service was a nice asset to our run days, meets, and picnic. Thank you, Gwen Forsythe and helpers!
Perkiomen Day set a record for attendance by the public. We estimate between 1000 to 1200 people from the community attended. Most importantly it was a safe and satisfying event.

We had a good measure of tie replacement starting in the spring with the replacement of eleven pre-built track panels on the 1.5" track at the driveway tunnel. Many ties were replaced on both 1" and 1.5" tracks in the infield and along the sections near the clubhouse. Multiple turnouts were rebuilt in place. We could always use more help. Thank you, Rick Stoughton and Paul Rice and others who have been getting a lot, done. We are grateful for it.

We established some new guidelines for minor members and a code of conduct for all members. We added new signs, fresh paint, and replaced the footbridge near the clubhouse. Picnic tables were renewed with new wood. We repaired a crack in the air system that allowed the system to fill with rainwater. Finding and repairing it was a challenge. We removed ten nuisance stumps, and several downed trees were cut up and removed.

Mowing and trimming are a constant need. Thank you, Mark Cahill and helpers, for leading the effort and for your consistent work in keeping the grounds maintained again this year. Thank you Mark for the interesting Gazette articles you contributed this year, nicely done!

Table sales were the best ever. Thank you to Kathy Parris and her helper Joan Cahill and to those who generously donated items with the proceeds going to the club. Well done! Thank you, Kathy, for your work in maintaining the membership list and managing the dues collecting, all a big help!

The proposed paver project was presented and is gaining traction. We are around \$9500 pledged so far which is a little more than halfway to the \$17,000 needed. Please consider pledging money to get us to the goal. "Many hands make light work" as the old saying goes. Any amount small or large is welcome. Pledge cards are in the club house or you can email the treasurer.

The gauge one railroad seemed to reach a higher level of activity and enjoyment this year. I have seen new faces and even some not seen for a long time. Perkiomen Day saw a lot of visitors at the tracks. The gauge one group always seems to be wearing big smiles.

Thank you to Richard Moore for his generous donation to the club again this year.

Thank you to Bob Blackson and John Caldwell for their generous donations.

We could mention much more but I think most importantly I believe it was a year filled with fun and good will amongst us and our great live steam hobby.

We look forward to more of the same and perhaps better for 2026.

Wishing you a joyous Christmas and Hanukkah season and best wishes for health and prosperity in 2026.

PS. Please remember to get your dues paid by January 1st.

John Forsythe
President PLS, Inc.

It's a Wrap



As we close out the 2025 Running Season. With the Turntable Lift covered for Winter we can all look forward to 2026 Run days.

2026 PLS Upcoming Events

- Sat, Jan 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
- Sat, Feb 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
- Sat, Mar 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Annual Meeting – 12:30 PM
Annual Elections
- Sat, Apr 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
SPRING CLEAN UP - AM
Membership Meeting – 12:30 PM
- Sun, Apr 26 **BOILER TESTING**
Run Day Members and Guest
(Rain Date May 3)

Membership Gauge

As of Dec. 10, PLS has:

- 96** Regular Members
- 8** Probationary
- 149** Associate Members
- 2** Honorary Members.



Club Membership News

PLS welcomes new Associate members Chad Glerum, John Jensen, and Cody Glerum. Welcome also to Timothy McMullan who has applied for Regular Membership.

Donation Acknowledgements

PLS wishes to thank the following for donations received by December 10: Stephen Martino, Tom Toth, Robert Spencer, Bob Blackson, Bill Shields, Bill & Ruth Morewood Foundation, Richard Moore, Linda Dennis, Mark Cahill, Carol McMullan, Paul Nichini, William Peacock, Duane Quenzel, Jim Salmons, Daniel Siegle, Andrew Kosmach, Vincent D'Amico III, Thomas Diedrich, John Evans Jr, Jeffery Guzy, Mark Layton, James Mooney, Michael Mumma, Edward Overly, Chris Rood, David Staplin, Kenneth Thomas, John Wessels, Fred Daddi, James Stapleton, Jerry Bohlander, Dave Johnson, and Mary Mercer.

Pennsylvania Live Steamers, Inc.

President	John Forsythe	of Blooming Glen, PA	john@tcsdccc.com
Secretary	Paul Miller	of West Chester, PA	secretary@palivesteamers.org
Treasurer	Mark Cahill	of Perkasio, PA	treasurer@palivesteamers.org
Gazette Editor	TBD - Paul Miller (Interim)		

Board of Directors

Steve Mallon, mallonmusic@gmail.com - Term Expires 3/27,

Fred Daddi, F_Daddi@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/26

Bonny Slater, , quiltsewladylady@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/26

Peter Brown, peteprivate@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/27

Bruce Barrett, greenjeeps2@yahoo.com - Term Expires 3/27

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PLS Calendar of Events – 2026

January

Saturday Jan. 17 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

February

Saturday Feb. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

March

Saturday Mar. 21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Annual Meeting-12:30 PM
Annual Elections

April

Saturday Apr. 11 **Chipper Event - 9 AM**

Saturday Apr. 18 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
SPRING CLEAN-UP
Membership Meeting –12:30 PM

Sunday Apr. 26 **BOILER TESTING**
Run Day – Members & Guests
(Rain Date May 3)

May

Saturday May. 16 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Friday May. 22 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

Saturday May. 23 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

Sunday May. 24 **SPRING MEET** - Members & Guests

June

Saturday Jun. 6 **Perkiomen Community Day**
Run Day – Township Residents

Saturday Jun. 13 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Saturday Jun. 20 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date Sun June 21)

July

Saturday Jul. 18 **Annual PLS Picnic - 12:00 Noon**
(Train rides will be available from
Noon until 3 PM)
(Picnic Rain Date Sunday July 19)

Sunday Jul. 26 Run Day – Members & Guests
(Rain Date August 2)

Note: No meetings in July

August

Thursday Aug. 20 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 PM

Saturday Aug. 22 Membership Meeting - 9:30 AM

Saturday Aug. 22 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date Sun Aug.23)

September

Friday Sep. 4 **FALL MEET**- Members & Guests

Saturday Sep. 5 **FALL MEET**- Members & Guests

Sunday Sep. 6 **FALL MEET**- Members & Guests

Saturday Sep. 19 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Sunday Sep. 27 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date October 4)

October

Thursday Oct. 8 Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 PM

Saturday Oct. 10 Membership Meeting - 9:30 AM

Saturday Oct. 10 Run Day - Members & Guests
(Rain Date Sun Oct. 11)

Saturday Oct 17 **FALL CLEAN UP in AM**

Friday Oct. 23 **Blow Down Meet** - Members & Guests

Saturday Oct. 24 **Blow Down Meet** - Members & Guests

Sunday Oct. 25 **Blow Down Meet** - Members & Guests

November

Wednesday Nov. 11 Veterans Day Run - 10:00 AM

Saturday Nov. 14 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
Membership Meeting - 12:30 PM

Friday Nov. 27 Turkey Trot Run – Gauge 1 only

December

Saturday Dec. 12 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM

Workdays at PLS



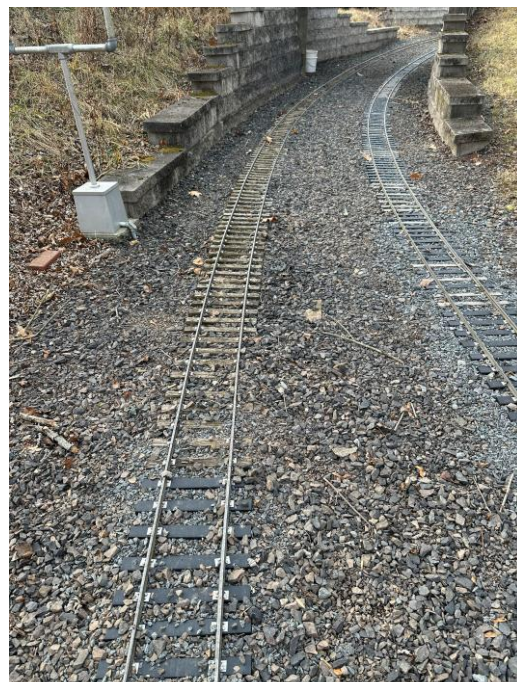
Remove & Replace Ties Project continues as some of the worst Ties along the South property line are replaced. Also, some of Railroad Ties were replaced. They were all installed in 1999 and endured the hot Sun and a few floods.



Progress on the Lowlands also continued. The Yard exit to the Merge Turnout is completed. The Merger Turnout and the Main to the Tunnel on the 7.25" track are also complete. Work continues on the Main between the Station and the Merge Turnout.



This is the 3rd Turnout rebuilt in place. This one is on the 4.75" Main near to Bldg. 8. The before picture was in the last Gazette.



Another view of the progress on the 7.25" Main east of the Station. Some of the water-soaked ties have been replaced. The next area to be worked after the Station exit is inside the Tunnel and then on the Mercer Bridge.

Just Do It

Author: Jay Foresythe

Another great year of running trains is in the books. Some of us had a mostly trouble-free season of running trains on the railroad or railroads if you got the opportunity to travel and visit many other wonderful tracks around the country. Some may have spent the running season constantly tinkering and trying to get something to work or run better.

Any seasoned live steamer knows that whether your engine ran great all season or needs a lot of work they always need something. Some of the work needing to be done can be overwhelming. The analysis paralysis is a live steamers biggest obstacle.

I myself am guilty of getting caught up in analysis paralysis. Thinking so much about the project needing to be done I begin to get overwhelmed and just procrastinate. The best fix I've found is simply to just do something, or as Nike's famous motto would say "just do it".

If you don't feel confident in yourself or your abilities the best thing to do is still "just do it". No prolific and accomplished builder became that way overnight. You can read all the books, read all the magazine articles and watch all the YouTube videos you want. Although they are all great ways to get ideas and are indeed helpful, they will never actually get you anything done. In some cases, they might even be counterproductive by giving you too many things to think about and decide. Still the best thing is to just do it, find some scrap steel or cheap material and make something to practice. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. I was told by a very accomplished builder at our club that his scrap bin has enough parts to build a whole other scrap engine.

Well you might say, what about motivation, determination and perseverance? Those three can sometimes be easy to lose when you start a large or small project. "Just do it" is the solution to all three of those.

How do all those connect? A short or maybe not so short personal story about how I discovered motivation, determination and perseverance are all connected to "just do it". A few years ago, the Pacific #4602 that I run on most run days is coming up on 50 years old with all original valve gear and bushings. The inevitable job of having to replace all the pins and bushings was looking like a big and time-consuming job. I was overwhelmed by the thought of having to take the engine out of service and make that many parts. It would have been easier to keep running it until it literally falls apart or just sit it in the shop and let it collect dust for years. The only way to get it done was to "just do it". I started with one rod at a time, starting with the rear driver connecting rod. Pressed out one bushing then made a new one and pressed it back in. At the end of the night, I felt accomplished. I was proud of myself; I gained some confidence. With the confidence came the motivation, with the motivation came the determination and perseverance followed. One by one I took each pin and bushing out being careful to only do one at a time. If I messed up a part, I only had to fix one part and only had to put one rod back on to make the engine runnable again. Now the engine runs like a top, so well I am able to trust it to run well for new and inexperienced engineers.

All that to say, focus on one thing at a time and just do it. Don't be afraid of making scrap, don't be afraid of making mistakes. Mistakes are only a bad thing if you keep repeating them and don't learn from them. And most importantly have fun, let the small victories and parts excite you. Let them inspire you to move forward. One thing leads to another and before you know it you're out on the track beaming ear to ear proud of yourself as your engine continues to run well or better than it did before.

2025 PLS Paver Project

as presented by Pat Murphy 11.15.25

As a way to beautify the outdoor club house area, I am offering this project as intended to provide a positive and clean presentation as well as address ongoing member mobility concerns. While it is encouraged by the PLS Board of Directors, it is not as of yet a voted-on project. If the Pledge Drive is successful, then the Board would approve its commencement. The work would entail:

- Hire a contractor to perform all work to grade and install Pavers around the existing PLS club house pad area. This project would include - (See drawing on page 7)
- Pavers to be graded to meet the club pad flush – eliminates current step
- Red pavers to complement existing brick walkway by station.
- Basket weave pattern to complement existing pathway design.
- The existing sidewalk from handicamp ramp, pole and tree would not be affected.
- The existing blacktop would remain; outline avoids drainpipe issues.

Section 1 of the drawing – is to be designated as a section of remembrance with names of deceased regular members of PLS who have made leadership contributions the club. Engraved names on each paver. Costs are estimated to be \$100 per name engraved. This area would have the least foot traffic and nearest to the track and public area.

The Contractor s work would include:


- Excavate 9/12 inches down from the existing clubhouse concrete slab.
- Install separation fabric on the subgrade
- Install 6 inches of 2A modified on top of the fabric, sloped and compacted with a ground pounding machine
- Install 1 inch of granite sand
- Install polymeric sand in between all the joints of the pavers.
- Install a concrete edging around the border of the pavers so pavers will not shift or move.
- The patio will be slightly sloped away from the concrete slab, so water drains properly.
- The patio will be flat, and the bricks will be installed stalled evenly at the same heights.

Currently we have a \$5000 pledge as seed money towards the paver project. All pledges are conditioned on the following:

- The Pledge campaign would commence by October 1, 2025 and conclude June 1st, 2026.
- At the end of the drive on June 1st, 2026, assuming that project is committed and the BOD has voted to accept the contractors Bid, pledged monies would be due to the PLS Treasurer no later than 30 days after conclusion of the drive – hence – July 1, 2026.
- Once monies are in hand a contractor will be engaged to commence as soon as possible.
- Monies are obtained will be from pledged amounts by individuals or are not intended at this time to be funded from the general Budget.
- If the project is not funded or committed to by June, 1st, then ALL pledge obligations are rescinded.
- Once the project has been committed pledge donations are to be in PLS accounts within 30 days.



Estimate	Area	1	2	3	Total
(Landesign Hardscapes)		\$4,650	\$3,500	\$12,500	\$20,650 or (\$17,000 at one time)
(11.11.25)		(+ \$100 per engraved Brick - not included)			



PLS Club house Paver Pledge card

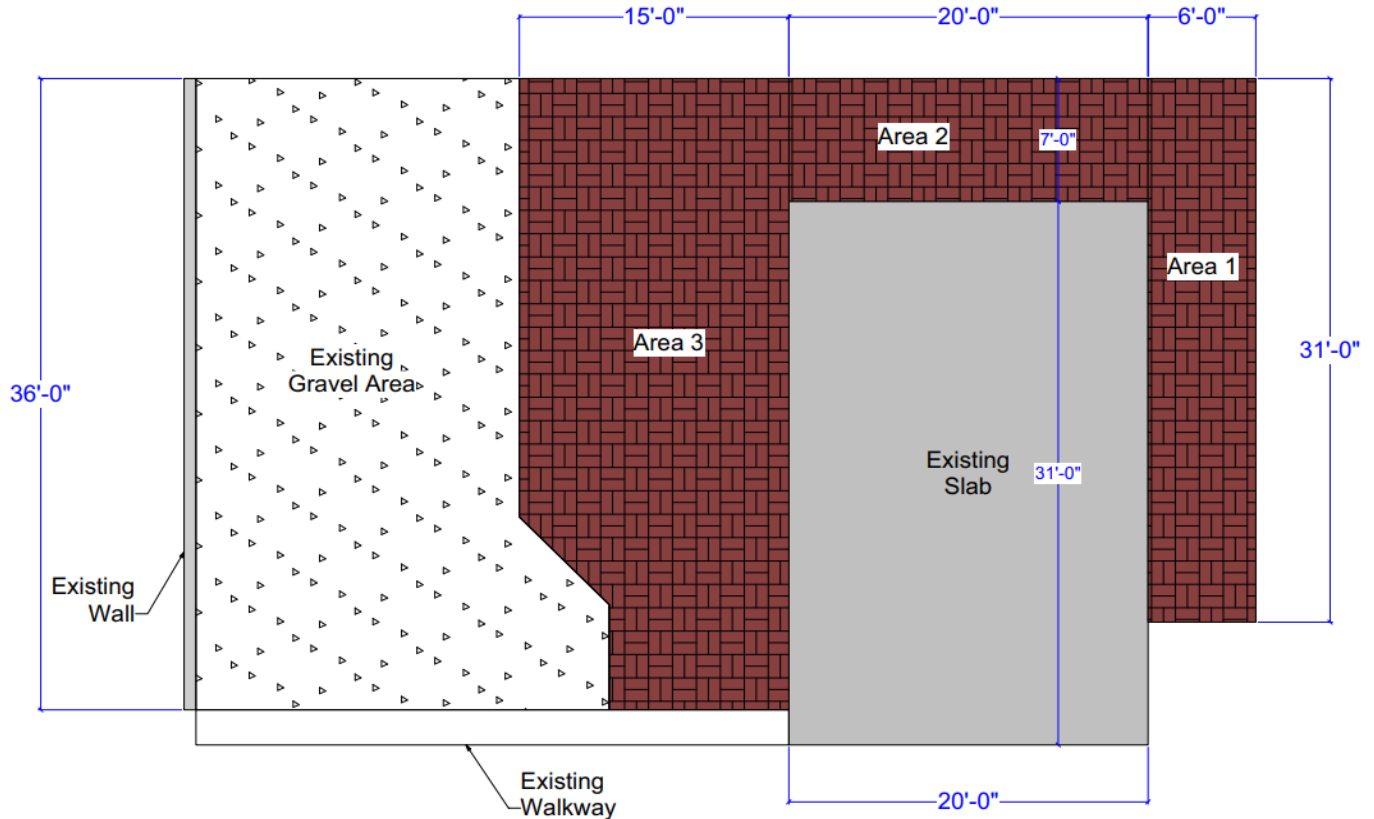
All Pledge amounts will be confidential

Please hand this Pledge Card to either the PLS Treasurer (Mark Cahill) or Pat Murphy.

I, _____, hereby pledge the amount of \$ _____ towards the PLS Club house paver project.

- I understand that the Pledge drive campaign will commence on October 1, 2025 and will conclude on June 1st, 2026.
- I understand that if the Pledge drive is successful my Pledge funds/ donation, will need to be submitted to the Treasurer of PLS within 30 days (July 1st, 2026) of successful conclusion of the Pledge Drive so that commencement of the project may then occur.
- I understand that if the Pledge Drive is **NOT** successful then my pledge is null and void and I have no obligation to fulfill my pledge.

Signature: _____ Print name: _____ Date: _____





The PLS GAZETTE

P.O. Box 26202

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FIRST CLASS



Veterans Day Run November 11, 2025. A small group gathered after the Flag Ceremony and sharing stories about their favorite Veterans. Pictured left to right Mark Cahill, Rob Kuhlman, Jim Adams, Mike Moore, Rick Stoughton and Nick Wilson.

It was very cold and windy. Only a few of us took a lap or two around the layout.