

Happy fall to everyone.

It's a busy time for all of us and I hope you are remembering the Chicago Chapter and Chicago Rail Association along with everything else. The programs for the rest of the year are in the news letter and on the web site. October brings us our annual meeting and on Friday Oct 9th we will have elections along with our program. Also coming up is dues renewal time. A renewal form is being included with the newsletter and is also available on the web site. Dues are due by the end of December. Members not renewing by January 31st will be drop from our membership rolls. Just to repeat the procedure, if you pay just the club dues and not the National, you will be a member of the Chicago Rail Association. If you want to stay part of the NRHS, you will pay you local dues to the club, indicating your national membership number, and pay your national dues directly to the National when you receive the renewal from them and you will be part of the Chicago Chapter. Remember, wait until you receive your National renewal before sending money and do not send National dues to us at the chapter. We have no way to process your payment.

You notice on the renewal form that we have raised our dues. This is the first time in many years that we have done this. This was deemed necessary in order to keep from losing money. The Downers Grove facility has served our needs well over the years. I've spoken with them about our situation and they will try to work with us. I fear it might not be enough and that we probably will have to move. In addition to room rental, we still have newsletter, telephone, insurance and mailing costs. Although we have tried to move everything to electronic, there are still some things that have to be done the old fashion way. If it means that we have to move, then so be it. I know this is not the most popular way but it is necessary. If anyone has more ideas I would be happy to discuss them.

On a happier and more festive note, Mark your calendars for our annual Christmas party. It will be early December at Flossmoor Station. The date will be announced just as soon as it is confirmed. Reservations must be made by Dec 1st. Depending on the number of guests, we will select dinner off the menu. Check our web site for latest details.

Thank you all for your time and interest in your club
Larry Klingbeil