



## Chicago & North Western Historical Society

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### An Open Message from C&NWHS – December 24, 2020

As 2020 winds down, we want to wish our members, donors, supporters and friends Happy Holidays as we prepare for the New Year. We look forward to 2021 as an opportunity for all to resume a normal life with family and friends.

The last year has been a tough year for many due to Covid-19. We sympathize with those who have suffered from the loss of family, friends, jobs and income. Due to the pandemic, the society had to cancel events in order to safeguard members from health risks. While this caused an inconvenience to some, the welfare of our members is a major responsibility we take seriously. We do miss the camaraderie these events afford our members.

Through the months, we have been able to maintain some activities for the society. While we experienced some delays, both on our part and some out of our control, **North Western Lines 2020-3** went to press last week and will be delivered to members soon. To get back on schedule, **NWL 2020-4** will be completed and sent to the printer next month. If your membership comes due with issue **NWL 2020-3**, we ask that you pay your membership fees quickly to assure that you are an active member when the mailing list is compiled for issue **NWL 2020-4**.

The archives and store staff have been able to continue work on a reduced basis to assure the safety of our volunteers. The work areas at Berwyn are in close proximity to each other and proper distancing has to be met. We are proud of all members in various functions who have been able to work under challenging circumstances throughout this year. Your continued dedication to the society is appreciated by everyone.

The next "live" annual convention in Mankato scheduled for May 2021 has already been cancelled due to the pandemic. Due to the Covid-19 vaccination schedules announced last week, we will still not be able to conduct a safe event. We are working to replace it with a "virtual" meeting that will offer recordings of the presentations and a few of the tours that were scheduled. Also looking to conduct an online model and photo contest. More to follow as details are confirmed. The annual membership meeting will also be handled as an online session. The society is using GoToMeeting as our video and conferencing program for conducting online live sessions for board of director and project meetings. Our plan will currently allow up to 150 participants in each session and the annual meeting which is scheduled for late May. A registration schedule will be set up for members to sign up for attendance.

The society remains financially stable even though we have had a loss of sales income due to the cancelled events throughout the year. We want to let members know that we can help offset those losses due to charitable giving offered under the **CARES Act**. Even if you do not itemize your taxes, you can write off up to \$300 in addition to your standard deduction on your 2020 tax filing if you donate prior to January 1, 2021. <https://cnwhs.org/wp1/product-category/donation/> The donation can be designated for the archive project or our general operating fund – the choice is yours. Consult your tax advisor for details regarding your individual situation. Please be generous.

As 2021 approaches, we wish the best to everyone for a better year and a chance to get back to normal. May you and your families enjoy the holiday season. Stay safe and take care.

Tim Coyle  
President

Jeff Eggert  
Vice President