

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Community Update 2008



Lackawanna Heritage Valley

WHERE AMERICA'S STORY LIVES

www.LHVA.org

partnerships
& collaboration
in the
community

Dear Friends,

Two thousand eight was a year of collaboration for LHVA. Our talented and dedicated staff worked diligently on important LHVA programs as well as on a multitude of exciting projects that we share with our many historical, cultural and community partners. The newly organized Northeastern Pennsylvania Conservation Alliance has brought more entities to the table, and LHVA has an ever growing family of partners and friends. Despite the difficult challenges of a worsening economy that impacts our funding streams...

...we continue to marvel at the creativity, resourcefulness & collaborative spirit of our community.

The development of the forty-mile Lackawanna River Heritage Trail (LRHT) remains our top priority. Bids for the construction of the Downtown Scranton Riverwalk were submitted in December 2008. Our thanks to the efforts and support of PennDOT, DCNR, Senator Robert Mellow and Lackawanna County Commissioners Michael Washo, Corey O'Brien and A.J. Munchak, all of whom provided major funding and technical assistance. We anticipate a ribbon cutting by late 2009.

With the assistance of Congressman Paul Kanjorski and a matching fund commitment by Scranton Mayor Chris Doherty, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is building a section of the LRHT atop the Scranton flood control levees. Also scheduled for

completion by late 2009, the Levee Trail will provide the final link between Taylor and Dickson City, allowing trail users to traverse Scranton from one end to the other!

This report will outline the many activities of LHVA. The highlight of the year, however, came in September, when LHVA joined the Lackawanna Historical Society to honor our beloved Board Chair, Alan Sweeney, who received the "2008 Individual Professional Leadership Award" from the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historical Organizations. It was a joyful celebration.

After a courageous struggle, Alan passed away on December 5th. His legacy is alive at the Santa Train event in Carbondale and the Mid-Valley in December, the popular train excursions to Tobyhanna and Moscow, the monuments on Courthouse Square in Scranton, the many services at the Scranton Public Library, the renovations at the Catlin House, and of course, the wonderful programs at the Lackawanna Historical Society. We see him everywhere we look, and we are grateful for his gifts to us.

Sincerely,

Natalie Gelb Solfanelli

Natalie Gelb Solfanelli
Executive Director



Alan Sweeney and Natalie Gelb Solfanelli

New Initiatives

LHVA provides grants and technical assistance for creative and innovative projects:

- “LHVA Spring Symposium: Through the Visitor’s Eyes,” a marketing workshop sponsored by the Heritage Valley Roundtable.
- “General O’Malley Memorial Statue” honoring Carbondale’s famous native son.
- “Art of the Land,” an exhibit and programs featuring the work of John Willard Raught to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Everhart Museum.
- Exhibit upgrade and facility renovations at the Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum.
- Directional and interpretive signage at the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour.
- Photographic exhibit celebrating the “100th Anniversary of the Lackawanna Station,” presented by Steamtown National Historic Site and the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel.
- “History Set in Stone: A Guide to Downtown Scranton Architecture,” a walking tour booklet produced by LHVA and the Lackawanna Historical Society.

Ongoing Programs

Good projects often become ongoing, sustainable programs that foster collaboration:

- Heritage Valley Roundtable, a monthly meeting of historic, cultural and educational partners.
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Conservation Alliance, a quarterly meeting of 80 regional environmental organizations.
- “Academy in the Woodlands,” a series of teacher training workshops presented by Keystone College Environmental Education Institute.
- “Community Connections to the Watershed,” a participatory program for high-school students through the Lackawanna County Conservation District and Lackawanna State Park.
- “Summer Heritage Passport Program,” an educational and artistic program with the Lackawanna County Library System that provides families with admission to cultural/heritage sites.
- “Heritage Explorer Train,” an excursion program to Carbondale and Archbald with the Lackawanna Historical Society, Lackawanna County Office of Arts and Culture, and Steamtown National Historic Site.
- “LHVA Educational Mini-Grant Program” for area educators.
- “Environmental Workshop Series” by Lackawanna College’s Environmental Institute.
- “Santa Train,” a holiday program that brings Santa to five Upper and Mid-Valley communities.

Looking Ahead to 2009

- Completion of the Downtown Scranton Riverwalk and Scranton Levee Trail.
- Survey and mapping of historic resources in Scranton and the Lackawanna Greenway.
- Construction of one or more interpretive kiosks at select partner sites.
- Compilation of Scranton Lace oral history interviews.
- Implementation of environmental projects by two OSM/VISTA volunteers.
- Ongoing support of the Scranton Riverfront Partnership.
- Launch of “Ambassadors in Action,” LHVA’s new volunteer program.

Key Projects
& Programs

United States Legislators

US Senator Arlen Specter
US Senator Robert P. Casey
US Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski
US Congressman Chris Carney

National Park Service

Mary A. Bomar, Director

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Edward G. Rendell, Governor

PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary

Pennsylvania Legislators

Senator Robert J. Mellow
Representative Kevin Murphy
Representative Ken Smith
Representative Edward G. Staback
Representative Jim Wansacz

Lackawanna County Commissioners

Michael J. Washo, Chair
Corey O'Brien
A. J. Munchak

Board of Directors

Alan Sweeney, Chair*
Thom Welby, Vice Chair
Atty. Julia K. Munley, Secretary
Barbara Colangelo, Treasurer
Marisa Bevilacqua
Ella S. Rayburn
Robert Savakinus
Atty. Joseph O. Haggerty, Solicitor

Ex-Officio Members

Dennis DeMara, PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
Harold H. Hagen, Jr., Steamtown National Historic Site
Chester J. Kulesa, Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum
Bernard McGurl, Lackawanna River Corridor Association

**Deceased*

LHVA Staff

Natalie Gelb Solfanelli, Executive Director
Daniel K. Perry, Chief Operating Officer
Alice Sokoloski, Fiscal Director
Colleen Carter, Director of Programs
Stephanie Milewski, RLA, Trail Manager & Environmental Program Officer
Sarah Piccini, Program Officer – Interpretation & Preservation
April Rogato, Executive Assistant
Beverlyann Liuzzo, Administrative Assistant
Diane Chelik, Administrative Assistant
Jack Carling, Contracts Manager

Mission

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority is a partnership of government, business, civic organizations, and individuals dedicated to the development of the region's historic, cultural, economic, and natural resources through preservation, education, and promotion of our heritage.

LHVA's Goals

1. Tell the region's story.
2. Facilitate partnerships.
3. Preserve and enhance the physical character and economic vitality of the communities in the Lackawanna Valley.
4. Improve the visitor experience.
5. Reconnect people to the Lackawanna River.

National Heritage Areas

The Lackawanna Heritage Valley is one of forty National Heritage Areas recognized by Congress for their significant contributions to the American experience. In partnership with the National Park Service, LHVA celebrates the nationally significant history of the Lackawanna Valley, preserving it for the benefit of current and future generations.

Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program

Administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Heritage Areas Program is guided by five goals: economic development, partnerships, cultural conservation, recreation and open space, and education and interpretation. The initiative provides a catalyst for diverse groups within a region to develop a unified strategy for protecting, preserving, developing, and promoting the region's heritage. The Lackawanna Heritage Valley was designated Pennsylvania's first heritage area in April 1991. There are now twelve heritage areas in the Commonwealth.

Contact Information for LHVA

Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority
538 Spruce Street, Suite 516
Scranton, PA 18503
Phone (570) 963-6730 ext.8200
Fax (570) 963-6732
Email Heritage@LHVA.org
Web www.LHVA.org

The Lackawanna River Heritage Trail and Lackawanna Greenway

The goal of LHVA is to have all forty miles of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail completed or under development by 2012:

- **Downtown Scranton Riverwalk** - Construction will begin in early spring with completion anticipated by late 2009.
- **Scranton Levee Trail** - The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will incorporate the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail into the Scranton levee with estimated completion in late 2009.
- **Lackawanna Greenway Plan and Trail Feasibility Study** - The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has provided funding for a plan for the Lackawanna Greenway, a feasibility study for the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, and a Master Site Plan for the Scranton to Taylor section of trail. LHVA will commission these studies for completion by the end of 2009.
- **Lackawanna County** - The Lackawanna County Commissioners have allocated \$750,000 of the county's share of Growing Greener II funds to the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail project.
- **Scranton Riverfront Partnership** - The Master Plan is complete, and the Riverfront Partnership will move to the next phase of development during 2009.

Environmental Conservation and Outreach

Conservation Alliance

More than 80 regional environmental groups meet quarterly to share ideas and to develop projects that preserve and enhance the natural resources of Northeastern Pennsylvania. In 2008, a new Steering Committee was formed and met monthly to develop goals, action steps, potential collaborative projects, and a marketing plan.

Keystone College Environmental Education Institute

A series for teachers of dynamic science and environmental education courses using nature as a laboratory. The week-long summer courses include "Watershed Explorers," "Forests and Society," "Flora and Fauna of Pennsylvania," and "Climate Change and the Energy Challenge."

Community Connections to the Watershed

High school students and teachers explore the Lackawanna River watershed with monthly field trips, classroom activities, and final projects.

Environmental Workshop Series

Lackawanna College Environmental Institute (LCEI) hosts presentations by area experts on environmental and conservation topics. A few early lectures grew into a popular year-round series.

Community and Economic Development

Interpretive Kiosks

During 2008, LHVA commissioned the design of wayfinding kiosks. These sculptural icons will represent the Lackawanna Valley's heritage, including site information, maps, and an overview of the Valley.

LHVA Spring Symposium

The inaugural Spring Symposium of the LHVA Heritage Roundtable was held in March 2008 at the Steamtown National Historic Site. Internationally renowned interpretive planner John Veverka discussed recent tourism trends and provided practical advice to representatives of sites, organizations and civic groups.

Santa Train

For the eleventh year, LHVA brought Santa Claus to five Upper and Mid-Valley communities on a special train, from Steamtown National Historic Site. The towns welcomed him with special goodies and entertainment.

Community Events

Initiatives supported by LHVA, such as the special Ice Harvest Train to Tobyhanna, Lackawanna Railfest 2008, and the play, "Witness to Suffering: The Birth of First Aid in America," immerse visitors in the Lackawanna Valley's story. Other events raise awareness for their host organization and attract visitors to the region, such as the annual Pocono NatureFest, the Steamtown Marathon, the Jewish Discovery Center Benefit Concert, and the Rail-Trail Council Benefit Run.



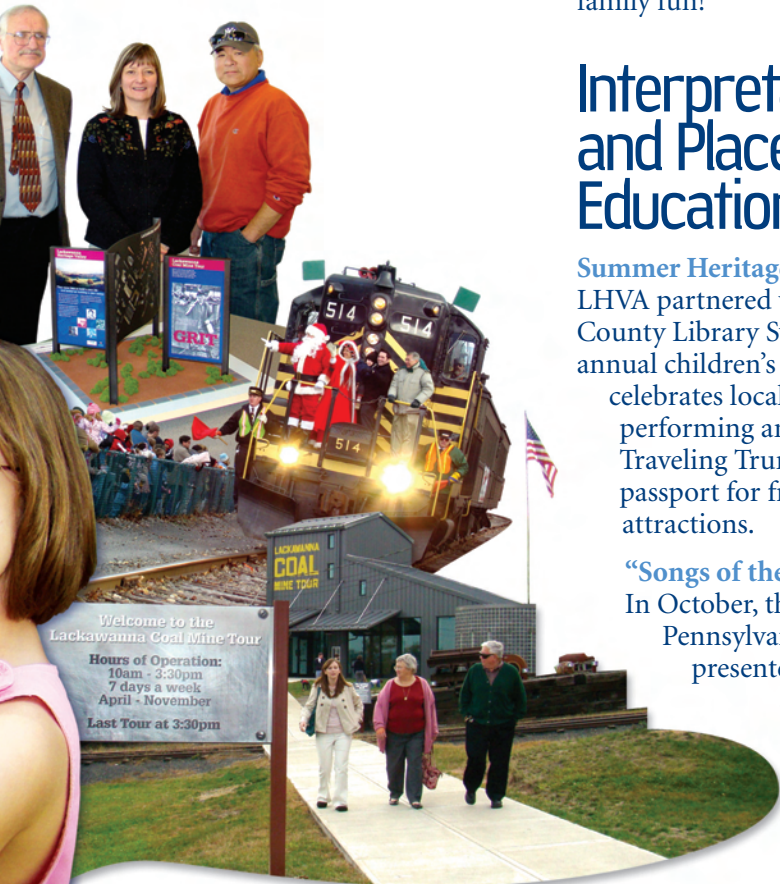
Cultural Conservation, Historic Preservation, and Local Heritage

Scranton Walking Tour Booklet

LHVA, the Lackawanna Historical Society, and the Lackawanna County Convention and Visitors' Bureau released their new publication, "History Set in Stone: A Guide to Downtown Scranton Architecture," an annotated walking tour of the city.

New Signage at the Lackawanna County Coal Mine Tour

LHVA assisted the Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour with the creation and installation of new interpretive and directional signage at its site in McDade Park. The new signs tell the story of underground mining in the Lackawanna Valley and depict what life was like for coal miners one hundred years ago.



Local Festivals

There is a festival for everyone to enjoy in the Lackawanna Valley, whether it is celebrating diversity at the Annual Unity Festival, splashing in the Lackawanna River during Riverfest 2008, dancing into the night at the Pennsylvania Polka Festival, or indulging in porketta and pastries at La Festa Italiana. A new Ethnic Festival Rack Card helps to promote these celebrations.

General Jerome F. O'Malley Memorial Statue

In May, Carbondale unveiled a life-sized bronze statue of its native son, U.S. Air Force General Jerome F. O'Malley, during a community celebration in Carbondale's Memorial Park. The celebration also marked the opening of a museum featuring General O'Malley's life.

Historical Markers

LHVA supported two state historical markers. The "Coal Miners' and Laborers' Strike of 1877" marker in Scranton memorializes a milestone event in the labor movement. The "Rocky Glen Park" marker highlights the venerable amusement park in Moosic. The labor strike marker commemorates the difficulties of working people's lives, but the Rocky Glen marker celebrates family fun!

Interpretation and Place-Based Education

Summer Heritage Passport Program

LHVA partnered with the Lackawanna County Library System on this popular annual children's program. The program celebrates local heritage by presenting performing and visual artists, LHVA's Traveling Trunks, and a children's passport for free admission to local attractions.

"Songs of the Earth"

In October, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic presented hands-on activities and "Earth-friendly" classical music prior to its annual Family Concert, "Songs of the Earth" to teach kids and their families about environmental issues.

Educational Mini-Grant Program

In its fourth year, LHVA's Mini-Grant Program awarded ten grants of \$500 each for creative projects that impact students both in and out of the classroom. Recent projects included "Richardsonian Romanesque Architecture," "Our Native Heritage," "Jermyn's Heritage and the Birth of First Aid," and the "Blue Ridge School District Nature Trail."

"Art of the Land"

The Everhart Museum marked its centennial year with "Art of the Land: John Willard Raught and the Continuing NEPA Landscape Tradition," an exhibit, a series of public programs, and a show of twenty contemporary artists whose work reflects Raught's inspiration.

Partnerships

LHVA Chair Receives State-Wide Award

In October, Alan Sweeney was awarded the "2008 Individual Professional Leadership Award" by the Pennsylvania Federation of Museums and Historic Organizations. He was honored at the Lackawanna Historical Society's annual dinner in September during a community celebration that featured the announcement of his award.



Alan Sweeney and his family

Speakers noted that Mr. Sweeney epitomized the ability of one individual to make a profound difference in the life of a community. LHVA nominated Mr. Sweeney for the PFMHO award, and it produced a film documenting his life.

LHVA Wins NCAC Community Award

In June, the Nonprofit Community Assistance Center presented its regional Arts and Culture Award to the LHVA for the Summer Heritage Passport Program.

Public Involvement

Every month, LHVA gathers area leaders at the Heritage Valley Roundtable, a breakfast meeting of the directors of local sites and key community organizations. During the popular Heritage Ambassadors' Program, residents tour local sites and attractions to learn about the region's industrial heritage and natural resources, as well as its economic revitalization.



Lackawanna Heritage Valley
— WHERE AMERICA'S STORY LIVES —

Funding Partners 2008

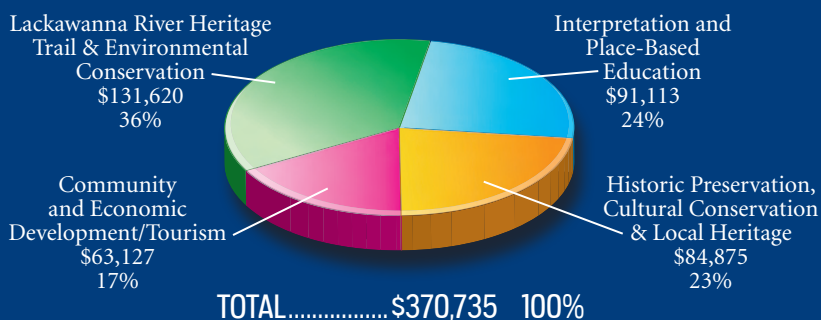
The main funders of LHVA are the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has provided significant funds for the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. LHVA also received support in 2008 from Lackawanna County, PPL Corporation, OSM/VISTA, and private funders.

2008 Project Support

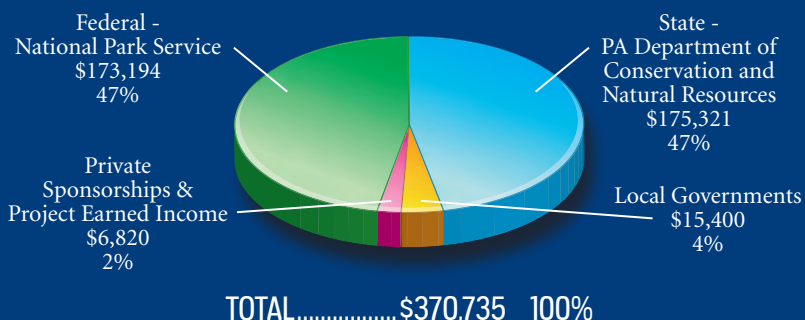
LHVA's projects and its grants program is an investment in Northeastern Pennsylvania that stimulates the region's economic development, enhances tourism initiatives, strengthens the capacity of community organizations, and increases the quality of life for area residents. LHVA funds projects that are aligned with its mission and goals as found in its "Plan for the Lackawanna Heritage Valley" (1991) and "Management Action Plan and Environmental Impact Study" (2004).

In 2008, LHVA provided \$370,735 in funding support for 64 new and ongoing initiatives that benefited the community. Of this amount, LHVA allocated \$201,072 for 11 internal projects, and awarded 53 grants totaling \$169,663 to partner organizations. The total project cost for these initiatives, including matching funds raised by the partners, was \$1,421,942.

2008 Project Support by Funding Category



2008 Project Support by Funding Source



Economic Benefits of LHVA's Investment

LHVA requires a dollar-for-dollar (1:1) match for all of its grant awards. In some cases, organizations are able to bring additional matching funds to a project, building on LHVA's initial investment. For example: if LHVA awards \$5,000 to a project with a direct project cost of \$15,000, the leverage ratio is 1:3. In 2008, LHVA provided \$370,735 in project support. The total cost for these projects was \$1,421,942, creating a leveraging ratio of 1:7. This means that every dollar that LHVA invested in the community resulted in seven dollars of public, local, and private funding.

2008 Project Support by Funding Amount

Major Partnership Projects

LHVA - Lackawanna River Heritage Trail	\$115,720
LHVA - Place-Based Education Projects	\$ 38,500
Lackawanna River Corridor Association - Silkman House Restoration	\$ 36,000
Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum - Signage & Museum Exhibit Upgrade	\$ 20,000
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Soc. - Boston & Maine Locomotive Restoration	\$ 18,000
LHVA - Lobby Redesign for Steamtown National Historic Site	\$ 12,800
Everhart Museum - "Art of the Land" Centennial Exhibit Project	\$ 10,000
General O'Malley Memorial Foundation - General O'Malley Memorial Statue	\$ 10,000
LHVA Website Upgrade	\$ 10,000
LHVA Oral Histories Project	\$ 8,500
Lackawanna County - Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour Signage	\$ 7,500

Community Challenge Grants & Project Support

Keystone College Environmental Ed. Institute - Environmental Courses for Teachers	\$ 5,000
Lacawac Sanctuary Foundation, Inc. - Master Site Plan	\$ 5,000
Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic - "Songs of the Earth" Children's Concert	\$ 5,000
Scranton Tomorrow - First Night 2008	\$ 5,000
Scranton Tomorrow - First Night 2009	\$ 5,000
Lackawanna County Conservation District - Community Connections to the Watershed	\$ 4,500
Lackawanna County Library System - Summer Heritage Passport Program	\$ 4,500
Steamtown National Historic Site - Heritage Explorer Train Program 2008	\$ 4,200
LHVA - Educational Mini-Grants	\$ 4,000
LHVA - Interpretive Kiosk Model	\$ 3,500
WVIA-TV - Pennsylvania Polka Festival	\$ 3,500
Lackawanna College Environmental Institute - Community Environmental Workshop Series	\$ 2,800
LHVA - Heritage Valley Roundtable Spring Symposium	\$ 2,595
LHVA - Heritage Valley Roundtable	\$ 2,098
Steamtown National Historic Site - Lackawanna Station Centennial Exhibit	\$ 2,063
Lackawanna County Office of Arts & Culture - Ethnic Festivals Promotional Rack Card	\$ 2,000
Lackawanna River Corridor Association - Lackawanna Riverfest 2008	\$ 2,000
LHVA - Ambassadors' Tours	\$ 1,994
Melanian News, Inc. - Unity Festival	\$ 1,500
LHVA - Santa Train 2008	\$ 1,365
Steamtown National Historic Site - Winter Lecture Series 2008	\$ 1,200
Misc. Project Sponsorships (\$100 to \$1,000 each)	\$ 14,900
TOTAL	\$370,735



Partners 2008

Albright Memorial Library
Archbald Borough
Carbondale Business Association
Carbondale Chamber of Commerce
Center for Anti-Slavery Studies
City of Carbondale
City of Scranton
Coolbaugh Township Historical Association
Countryside Conservancy
Delaware/Lackawanna Railroad
Deutsch Institute
Dickson City Borough
Dorflinger-Suydam Wildflower Sanctuary & Glass Museum
Dunmore Historical Society
Electric City Trolley Museum
Electric City TV
Everhart Museum
First Liberty Bank & Trust
Friends of Scouting
General O'Malley Memorial Foundation
Greater Carbondale YMCA
Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce
HeritagePA
Jermyn Borough
Jessup 21st Century
Jessup Borough
Jewish Discovery Center
Johnson College
Keystone College
La Festa Italiana di Lackawanna County
Lacawac Sanctuary
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Railway Historical Society
Lackawanna Coal Mine Tour
Lackawanna College Environmental Institute
Lackawanna County
Lackawanna County Conservation District
Lackawanna County Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lackawanna County Library System
Lackawanna County Office of Arts and Culture
Lackawanna Historical Society
Lackawanna River Corridor Association
Latin Cultural Diversity Center
Leadership Lackawanna
Marywood University
Melanian News
National Park Service

NEPA Alliance/Nonprofit & Community Assistance Center
Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit #19
Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic
Old Forge Bank
Olyphant Borough
PA State Society Daughters of the American Revolution
Pennsylvania Anthracite Heritage Museum & Scranton Iron Furnaces
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Rail Authority
Pocono Mountain Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society
Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel
Rail-Trail Council of NEPA
Scranton Area Foundation
Scranton Cultural Center at the Masonic Temple
Scranton Tomorrow
St. Rose of Lima, Carbondale
Steamtown Marathon
Steamtown National Historic Site
Times-Tribune Newspaper
University of Scranton Hope Horn Gallery
University of Scranton Weinberg Library
Waverly Community House
Waymart Historical Society
Wayne County Historical Society
WBRE-TV
WNEP-TV
WVIA-TV

