



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Announces New Board Chairman**

The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) is announcing that Trustee Ray Labuda has been elected to serve as its next Chairman of the Board. Labuda has been a CVSR trustee since 2014 and most recently served as its chairman of the organization's Facilities and Equipment Committee.

An active participant in community affairs, Labuda previously served as a trustee for Akron General Hospital and currently serves on the new Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital's Quality and Professional Affairs Committee. In addition, he currently serves as Chair of the Visiting Committee of the Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science Department of the Swanson School of Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Labuda is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Akron's NEXT program. The former vice president of technology at Hankook Tire, he succeeds George Snider who served as CVSR's chairman over the previous five years. During his tenure, Snider oversaw organizational growth, financial stability, and strategic planning. He led initiatives for capital funding, marketing, communications and stronger alignments with Cuyahoga Valley National Park, its partners and surrounding communities. Snider will continue his role as a trustee and will remain on the organization's Executive Committee as Past Chairman and Officer.

As Chairman, Mr. Labuda will become an officer for the organization and lead CVSR's Executive Committee. Other trustees elected to officer positions are:

Vice-Chairman – Peter Buerling – Mr. Buerling is Manager of Critical Infrastructure Protection for First Energy Corporation in Akron, Ohio.

Secretary – James T. Laprade – Mr. Laprade is CEO of the Vervent Strategy Group in Avon Lake, Ohio.

Treasurer – James E. Virost – Mr. Virost is the retired CFO of The Robbins Company in Solon, Ohio

At-Large, Non-Voting – John E. Scheatzle, Jr. - Mr. Scheatzle is Vice-President and General Manager, Performance Alloys, Materion Corporation, Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

All positions are effective January 1, 2016.

### **About Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad**

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad (CVSR) is a private sector, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer supported organization operating in partnership with Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and is dedicated to the preservation of passenger rail transportation in Cuyahoga Valley and the historic Ohio & Erie Canalway. CVSR has been providing excursion rail service for 42 years. For more information about the railroad, visit [CVSR.com](http://CVSR.com).