



Draft Minutes of the NRHS Advisory Council

Holiday Inn Airport Hotel – St. Louis, MO

Saturday January 11, 2014

Scott Andes – Advisory Council Chair Pro Tempore, presiding member. Call to order at 8:00AM CST

Welcoming remarks by Scott Andes and Al Weber

NRHS Vice President Joe Maloney designated Scott Andes to continue as Advisory Council Chair Pro Tempore.

Roll Call (Appendix A)

NRHS Secretary Bob Ernst introduced Ellen Pinsky who distributed the attendance sheets for the meeting.

Bob reported no Alternate National Representatives were appointed for the meeting.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

One error was corrected in the draft minutes from the 2013 Fall AC Meeting. Changed Three Rivers, PA to Three Rivers, MA.

Motion

Del Kittendorf moved and Robert Murray seconded to approve the minutes of the 2013 Fall Advisory Council Meeting as corrected. Passed by voice vote.

Report from National Office

President Greg Molloy stated that dues renewals are at 53% which is similar to numbers from last year's renewals at this time. Some large chapters have no renewals to date.

Old Business

Kurtz Bylaws Motion – tabled from the 2013 Fall Conference.

Jon Baake motioned and Del Kittendorf seconded to bring up the motion up for consideration. Passed by voice vote. The recommendation will be presented to the Board.

Chapter Newsletter Exchange

Jeff Smith will present a report at the 2014 Spring Conference.

Chapter Representative Job Description

Scott is asking for volunteers to create a committee to write the job description of a National Representative. Fred Kurtz and Jon Baake volunteered to be members of this committee.



Proposed Dues Collection System

The Advisory Council discussed the report on the Proposed Dues Collection System Option B. The discussion was based on the report distributed for the 2013 Fall Conference and the teleconference meeting held on January 4, 2014. The Proposed Dues Collection System report and teleconference question and answer report are posted in the AC section of the admin website. Many members of the Advisory Council participated in the discussion.

Highlights of the discussion included:

Cost of the check surcharge

- The fee is extreme and should be reconsidered.
- The fee will cause a decline in membership.
- Use a discount to the dues for using the online system instead of a fee.

Many members are not computer savvy.

- Older members will not use the online system.
- Some members will refuse to give out an email address.
- Members depend on the paper notification for dues renewals.
- Chapters can designate a person(s) to assist fellow members who are unable to use the online system.

Implementation

- Phase in the process over a couple of years.
- A phase in would be a better PR move.

Greg Molloy discussed the importance of reducing the cost of renewing members.

Jeff Smith discussed and clarified the mechanics of the new process. National will be issuing renewals for National dues only and chapters will be responsible for issuing their chapter renewals. Jeff also discussed that credit card security will be compliant with the latest laws and no credit card information will be stored.

NRHS Members Open Microphone

Robert Freeman commented on the Chapter Information area on the website. His chapter's information is incorrect even with the spreadsheets being updated. Jeff Smith will discuss this with Robert.

Del Kittendorf discussed how the Advisory Council can be proactive on membership recruitment. The chapters need to help each other to stop the membership attrition. Greg Molloy noted that the NRHS has a vacant Membership Development position, a position rarely filled. He is looking for assistance in this area.

Ron Gawedzinski asked on the status of the NRHS Strategic Plan and how are we going to make our organization attractive to younger members. Jeff Smith commented that some items are being completed but a good number of items have not been started. The plan must be updated. Gary Reinbolt



noted that it is important to continually update a strategic plan based on current conditions of an organization. An update is in progress and will be presented later this year.

Jon Baake is requesting a status of the Strategic Plan on a point by point basis from the Board with some measurable results.

Wes Ross urges the Advisory Council members to be more involved in NRHS programs. Because of the lack of volunteerism, dues are being increased because there is a need for more paid services. The Advisory Council can become more proactive in helping to find volunteers.

Del Kittendorf is inviting the Advisory Council members to join the Yahoo Group and will assist anyone who wants to join the group.

New Business

Scott Andes is seeking a new Secretary for the Advisory Council since the current Council Secretary Bob Ernst has become the NRHS Secretary. There were no volunteers among the attending group and the item will be on the 2014 Spring Conference agenda.

Jon Baake Discussion Points (Appendix B)

Jon Baake is requesting to put the points up for discussion to the Advisory Council for action. This will be placed on the 2014 Spring Conference agenda for more discussion and to start actions. Jon talked through each of the points to explain his reasoning. There were multiple positive comments to Jon's points.

Feedback to the Board of Directors

Carl Jensen suggested to the Advisory Council that a statement should be made to the Board regarding the Proposed Dues Process.

Motion

Carl Jensen moved and Ed Graham seconded that the Advisory Council agrees there needs to be a change to the dues process but does not endorse the punitive aspects imposed on those who cannot use the online service. The process should have a way to assist those members who require the use of checks and a manual process. After additional discussion the motion passed by voice vote.

Upcoming Conferences

2014 Spring Conference

Mark Eyer invited the Advisory Council to the 2014 Spring Conference on April 24-27, 2014 in Lewisburg, PA. A registration form was distributed to the group. Mark outlined the weekend's activities.

2014 Convention

Greg Molloy presented information on the 2014 Convention schedule. He is recommending the Advisory Council meet on Thursday, June 12, 2014 in the evening.



Motion

Robert Murray moved and Del Kittendorf seconded that the Advisory Council meet during the 2014 Convention on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 8PM. Passed by voice vote.

Adjournment

Robert Murray moved and Del Kittendorf seconded to adjourn. Passed by voice vote. Adjourned at 11:22AM

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Ernst

NRHS Secretary



Appendix A

2014 Winter Advisory Council Meeting Attendance

NRHS Officers and Directors Present

Gregory P. Molloy	President
Joseph C. Maloney, Jr.	Vice President
Robert Ernst	Global Director / Secretary
Walter Zullig	Global Director
Jeffery Smith	At-Large District A Director
Tony White	District 1 Director
Mark Eyer	District 2 Director
Harold "Smoke" Shaak	District 2 Director
Ralph Bitzer	District 3 Director / Treasurer
Larry Dyer	District 4 Director
Sanford Williamson	District 4 Director
Wesley Ross	District 5 Director
Duane Durr	District 6 Director
Al Weber	District 6 Director
Wilfred "Skip" Waters	District 7 Director

Staff, Members and Guests

John Fiorilla	NRHS General Counsel
David Baniewicz	NRHS Emblem Sales
Ellen Pinsky	NRHS Assistant Secretary
Robert Heavenrich	NRHS Comptroller
Diane Heavenrich	Member
Steven Siegerist	Member
Rosalee Kurtz	Member



National Representatives
Attendance

Winter Advisory Council Meeting
January 11, 2014

Chapter	#	Last Name	First Name	Present	Not Present
Alexander Chapter	152	Smith	Ted		X
Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter	188	Eddy	Kenneth	X	
Asheville Chapter	153	Klinger	Edward		X
Atlanta Chapter	046	Kittendorf	Delmar	X	
Augusta Chapter	095	VACANT			X
Baltimore Chapter	003	Shulby	Richard		X
Bergen-Rockland Chapter	136	Winters	Donald		X
Blackhawk Chapter	107	Murray	Robert	X	
Blue Ridge Chapter	043	Guthrow	Clyde		X
Bluewater Michigan Chapter	165	Patterson	Elizabeth		X
Boston Chapter	013	Levay	Edward		X
Bradford Ohio Chapter	234	VACANT			X
British Columbia Chapter	144	Sanford	Barrie		X
Bucktail Chapter	096	Bauer	Michael		X
Cape Cod Chapter	183	Scott	R.Douglas		X
Cape Fear Railroaders	164	Johnson	Richard		X
Carolina Clinchfield Chapter	215	Ellis	W.Yancey		X
Central Coast Chapter	097	Graham	Edward	X	
Central New York Chapter	020	Yonge	Paul		X
Central Oklahoma Chapter	111	Nantois	Bob		X
Central Pennsylvania Chapter	133	Irvin	Mark		X
Central Texas Chapter	141	Olsen	Carl		X
Champlain Valley Chapter	068	Sander	William		X
Charleston Chapter	084	Giardino	Arthur		X
Chicago & Illinois Midland Chapter	206	Shannon	William		X
Chicago Chapter	179	Jackson	Roy		X
Cincinnati Chapter	110	Andes	William	X	



National Representatives
Attendance

Winter Advisory Council Meeting
January 11, 2014

Chapter	#	Last Name	First Name	Present	Not Present
Collis P. Huntington Chapter	048	Hartz	Maurice	X	
Colorado Midland Chapter	094	Mc Farland	Mel		X
Columbia River Chapter	197	Holloway	John		X
Conneaut Chapter	069	Brundage	Ron		X
Connecticut Eastern Chapter	208	Axelrod	Raymond		X
Connecticut Valley Chapter	012	Wood	Grace		X
Cornell Chapter	161	Dickinson	Greg		X
Cotton Belt Chapter	213	Rankin	Steve		X
Cumberland Valley Chapter	125	Watts	David		X
Danville Junction Chapter	099	Schroeder	Richard		X
Delaware Valley Chapter	113	Duminiak	Leon		X
Delmarva Chapter	202	Russell	Charles		X
East Carolina Chapter	067	VACANT			X
East Tennessee Chapter	042	Hopkins	M.Paul		X
Florida East Coast Chapter	162	VACANT			X
Fort Lauderdale Chapter	196	Diedrich	Ronald		X
George L. Carter	242	Pahris	Jim		X
Grand Canyon Chapter	211	Wurgler	James		X
Great Plains Chapter	193	Furst	H.		X
Greensboro Chapter	145	Weber	George		X
Greenville Chapter	169	VACANT			X
Gulf Coast Chapter	085	Baxter	William		X
Gulf Curve Chapter	189	Lazur	Harla	X	
Gulf Wind Chapter	128	Bishop	Lee		X
Hagerstown Chapter	192	VACANT			X
Harrisburg Chapter	045	Irvin	Mark		X
Heart Of Dixie Chapter	060	Owen	Martin		X



National Representatives
Attendance

Winter Advisory Council Meeting
January 11, 2014

Chapter	#	Last Name	First Name	Present	Not Present
Hoosierland Chapter	186	Street	Rolland		X
Horseshoe Curve Chapter	093	DeFrancesco	Joseph		X
Indianapolis Chapter	074	Johnson	Thomas		X
Inland Empire Chapter	089	Simanton	John	X	
Intermountain Chapter	055	Moss	Thomas		X
Iowa Chapter	029	VACANT			X
Japan Chapter	240	Matsuo	Yoshitaka		X
Jersey Central Chapter	158	Dakelman	Mitchell		X
Kansas City Chapter	023	De Roo	John		X
Kentucky Central Chapter	194	Ross	Shirley	X	
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter	132	O'Malley	Timothy		X
Lake Shore Chapter	037	Grabowski	Ray		X
Lancaster Chapter	001	Kurtz	Fred	X	
Leatherstocking Chapter	167	Lazur	Mark	X	
Lehigh Valley Chapter	016	Habermann	Richard		X
Long Island - Sunrise Trail Chapter	075	Young	Benjamin		X
Louisville Chapter	026	Vescelus	Mike		X
Memphis & Charleston Railroad Chapter	245	Larkins	Rich		X
Memphis Chapter	050	Strong	William		X
Miami Chapter	044	Boldrick	S.		X
Midwest Chapter	021	Kovacs	William		X
Mississippi Great Southern Chapter	108	VACANT			X
Mohawk & Hudson Chapter	065	Hart	John		X
Monterey Chapter	247	VACANT			X
Nashville Chapter	057	Nelms	De Loy		X
Nebraska Railroad Museum	170	Blessing	George		X
New Orleans Chapter	119	Messina	Peter		X



National Representatives
Attendance

Winter Advisory Council Meeting
January 11, 2014

Chapter	#	Last Name	First Name	Present	Not Present
New York Chapter	022	Sowa	Cora		X
Niagara Frontier Chapter	017	Gerstung	Rebecca	X	
North Florida Chapter	160	Fiorilla	Marjorie	X	
North Jersey Chapter	010	Dakelman	Mitchell		X
North Texas Chapter	223	VACANT			X
North Western Illinois Chapter	106	Strombeck	George		X
Northstar Chapter	105	Goodman	John	X	
Old Dominion Chapter	041	VACANT			X
Old North State Chapter	123	Faircloth	Ken		X
Old Pueblo Chapter	072	Brubaker	Robert		X
Old Smoky Chapter	049	Freeman	Robert	X	
Overland Chapter	127	Billings	Richard		X
Owensboro Chapter	066	Stigall	BJ		X
Pacific Northwest Chapter	032	Berntsen	Edward		X
Paducah Chapter	217	Johnston	William		X
Perryville Chapter	224	Stetina	Patrick		X
Philadelphia Chapter	004	Senin	Peter	X	
Piedmont Carolinas Chapter	129	Shulby	Richard		X
Pocahontas Chapter	157	Mulhearn	Daniel		X
Pocono Mountains Chapter	205	Dickinson	Howard		X
Potomac Chapter	116	Davidson	Richard	X	
Pottstown & Reading Chapter	120	Sweigart	John		X
Promontory Chapter	073	VACANT			X
Queen And Crescent Chapter	138	Nussbaum	Matthew		X
Rappahannock Chapter	198	Barker	Theodore		X
Raritan River Chapter	244	Durrua	Kenneth		X
Red River Valley Chapter	092	VACANT			X



National Representatives
Attendance

Winter Advisory Council Meeting
January 11, 2014

Chapter	#	Last Name	First Name	Present	Not Present
Rio Grande Chapter	149	Howard	Charles		X
Rivanna Chapter	134	Deily	Gerard		X
Roanoke Chapter	036	Jensen	Carl	X	
Rochester Chapter	005	Warner	Rand		X
Saint Louis Chapter	064	Gawedzinski	Ron	X	
Samuel Spencer Chapter	151	Hess	Paul		X
Scioto Valley Chapter	172	Johnson	O.Franklin		X
Seven Railroads Chapter	241	McCormick	Bob		X
Shenandoah Valley Chapter	195	VACANT			X
Southeast Louisiana Chapter	082	Brighters	David		X
Southern Kentucky Chapter	246	Southworth	John		X
Southern Oregon Chapter	147	Pettit	Eugene		X
Suncoast Chapter	201	Frantz	William		X
Susquehanna Valley Chapter	058	Jilson	Donald		X
Tacoma Chapter	071	Chapman	William		X
Tampa Bay Chapter	118	Byers	Dave		X
Tennessee Valley Chapter	053	Miller	Louis		X
Texas Eagle Chapter	226	Owens	Harold		X
Tidewater Chapter	033	Boushell	Richard		X
Topeka Chapter	027	Grey	Kay		X
Tri-State Chapter	070	VACANT			X
Twin Forks Chapter	221	Gorddard	Richard		X
Ulster & Delaware Chapter	171	Bishop	Donald		X
United Kingdom Chapter	209	Keevil	Ronald		X
Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter	150	Lazur	Mark	X	
Washington DC Chapter	019	Baake	Jon	X	
Watauga Valley Chapter	159	Yaple	Robert		X



National Representatives
Attendance

Winter Advisory Council Meeting
January 11, 2014

Chapter	#	Last Name	First Name	Present	Not Present
West Jersey Chapter	018	Ciocciola	Frederick		X
Western Colorado Chapter	227	Thrasher	Patrick		X
Western Connecticut Chapter	030	Ballard	Roberta	X	
Western Kentucky Chapter	178	Henderson	Wallace		X
Western Maryland Chapter	148	Fowler	Frank		X
Western Montana Chapter	222	Palmer	E.Macdougall		X
White Oak Chapter	219	Murdock	Wellington		X
White River Junction Chapter	225	Wittik	William		X
Wichita Chapter	031	Koehn	J.Harvey		X
Wilmington Chapter	088	Posatko	Thomas		X
Winchester Chapter	083	Robinson	Berton		X
Winston-Salem Chapter	040	Weber	George		X
Wisconsin Chapter	025	Sherman	Bob		X
Yadkin Valley Chapter	218	Caudill	Thomas		X
Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Chapter	233	Nussbaum	Eugenia		X

Appendix B

Discussion points for the Jan 11 Advisory Council Meeting

1. Communications, Communications, Communications. Nothing is more important than improving communications with our chapters and members. Email is ubiquitous and we should use it to the maximum extent possible. Continue the push to get email addresses for all members – not just through the chapters but also through all other mailings. Establishing and maintaining the email list can be expensive but is a cost of doing business in this electronic age. Send the *Telegraph* to all NRHS members who have given us their email address and have opted in to receive it.
2. Publish summary financial statements in the *News* (pie charts showing income and expenses could be useful) and detailed financial statements and the annual audit report in the *Telegraph*.
3. Encourage chapters/chapter members to become more engaged with National, by among other things, becoming active in the Advisory Council and serving on NRHS committees. I know attempts to do this have not resulted in the desired response. Enhanced personal contact from National may improve this. Establish a committee to make recommendations on ways to improve the response.
4. Provide a report on the health of each of our chapters at BOD and Advisory Council meetings. Regional Directors would be responsible for obtaining current chapter health information. The idea is no one should be surprised when we hear a chapter is disbanding, or worse, doing quite well but just opting to disaffiliate with the NRHS. Ask Regional Directors to comment on chapters at risk at BOD meetings.
5. Conduct a survey of members and chapters that have left over the last three years to find out why they left and what it would take to bring them back. Establish a committee to construct and conduct the survey and analyze responses to determine things we could be doing differently or better.
6. Establish a new class of organization membership for museums and RR Attractions who would see a benefit in affiliation with the NRHS. They would not be chapters per se and NRHS membership would not be required for members of these organizations. This would put the NRHS more in front of the public and may gain membership where the public did not know we existed. There would have to be real benefits to those organizations that would choose to affiliate and we would have to charge a fee for the privilege of NRHS affiliation. Establish a committee to study this concept in depth and make recommendations to the BOD.