

NRHS Winter Conference

Advisory Council Meeting

Roanoke, VA

January 10, 2015

Meeting called to order at 3:20 PM by Chairman Scott Andes

Alternate representatives were presented and recognized. The draft minutes were discussed and two clarifications were made. It was noted that a method of contacting members without emails must still be made. Another correction was noted concerning the gathering of email addresses of members. It was noted that there is still no method or solution of the problem of handling members not on line or at-large. This will be an agenda item for the Spring Meeting.

The minutes were approved as amended.

For the record the following Board members were designated.

Tony White

Wes Ross

Jim Pahr

Scott Andes reemphasized the importance of our having the correct emails of National Reps. And the importance of each Chapter having a NR.

RailCamp; Becky Gerstung reported that a RailCamp committee has been formed and held their initial meeting at Johnson City. Each RailCamp is in process. Campers are needed. There are spaces for 24 campers at the East Camp and 16 at the North west Camp. Carl Jensen noted that one of the prime goals is finding sponsors for attendees. Chapters should contact the committee as soon as possible if they wish to sponsor either an open position or a specific person. The application form will then be sent directly to the individual nominated. The RailCamp committee has the final say in approving/disapproving any nominated attendee. The age requirements are basically 14-18, entering the ninth grade or having completed high school during the current year. Attendees may attend more than one camp. New campers will be given priority if there are more applicants than slots available. Carl welcomed Toni White to the committee.

What portions of the NBM should be implemented. This was tabled until the April meeting. Copies of the NBM will be emailed to the AC email list ASAP.

Most endangered list and grants committee: New chairman Ed Bernsten reports that the newly consolidated committee requests donation for the grants program. The report of the committee was distributed and copies are available if desired. This committee is also working on a procedure manual. If anyone has any suggestions for the manual please contact Richard Schulby.

Affiliate membership: Questions of other organizations becoming affiliate members. How would this be implemented. This also includes the question of chapters becoming affiliate groups

without their members being individual members of the national society. Jon Baake reported that his committee has held an initial meeting and there is a need to define what benefits affiliate groups would receive. How could groups be induced to affiliate with NRHS. Skip Waters reported that exposure would be the major benefit. Defining the mission and purpose of the NRHS is an ongoing process which continues to be defined and stated. Wes Ross stated that many rail related groups have recognized the value of offering exposure via the Discount List. We need to promote the list and continue it. Wes Ross noted that the list is valid for the year in which it is published. The goal is to finalize the list and publish it in the Spring of each year. Question was raised about soliciting and accepting advertising in the News. Bob Heavenrich reported that this could open up a lot of difficult questions.

New Business:

There is a real need for us to address the question of chapter members also being national members. This is urgent. This is major item to be presented in the feedback to the Board. One problem is changing the perception that there is an obvious physical benefit from belonging to the National organization. This is not a new problem. It has existed for many years. We need to more clearly define exactly what a chapter is. As a non-profit group we are actually prohibited from providing goods and services to individuals. It was noted that the question of separate memberships primarily began with the National no longer providing combined dues bills and beginning to collect national dues directly. Skip Waters encouraged the National Reps to go back to their chapters and promote the NRHS. Tell everyone what is being done and ask for their assistance in the rebuilding of the organization.

The general feeling is that this has been a very productive meeting which has reduced much of the previous duplication.

Ed Bernsten stated that he believes it will take time for confidence to be rebuilt in the national organization. Carl Jensen stated that it is important for the organization to concentrate on rebuilding this confidence.

Maurice Hart stated that this is a major problem with his chapter also.

Al Weber repeated that there is now a new atmosphere in our meetings. Things are beginning to look up. We now have a much more open society than we have been in the past. We still have to resolve the question of what a chapter really is.

Open microphone:
Nothing mentioned.

Upcoming Conferences:

York is firm.

There will be an AC meeting at the convention. AC meeting on Wednesday June 17, 12:30-2:00 PM.

A motion was made that there be an AC meeting in conjunction with the Fall Conference in Utica, NY. Approved. The dates are Oct. 23-25, 2015.

Carl Jensen suggested that the AC emphasize to the Board that the type of open meeting we have had today has been very productive and we continue to utilize it whenever possible.

Announcement or request from Ed Bernsten. Everyone who has expressed interest in the grants committee requested to meet for a brief introductory, get acquainted meeting.

No further announcements.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.