

NRHS Advisory Council Meeting
Fall Conference
Portland, OR
October 15, 2016

Chairman Scott Andes called the meeting to order at 10:02AM.

Welcome/Housekeeping – Scott asked that everyone please use the microphone when speaking and silence all cell phones. He then introduced Al Baker from the Pacific Northwest Chapter.

Al welcomed everyone to Portland. Three chapters are sponsoring the conference: Pacific Northwest, Tacoma, and Columbia River. He explained how the buffet lunch would work and what would be served. John Goodman asked how to get to the site for the banquet. Al then explained the transit system and how to get to the Rail Heritage Center.

Roll Call – Bob Ernst passed out the sign in sheets

- a. Alternate National Representatives – none were announced.
- b. Discuss and Approve Agenda – was approved as posted
- c. Directors assigned to meeting – Wes Ross, Joe Maloney, Jack Hilborn

Minutes from the Summer Meeting (Denver, CO July 20, 2016) – Ellen advised that there are two corrections to the minutes. On page 3 under Affiliate Membership, Tim Hensley's name is misspelled. John Simanton stated that his name is also misspelled. Ellen will make the corrections to the minutes. Del moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected, John Baake seconded. Minutes were approved.

Attendees by phone – Tim Hensley, CP Huntington Chapter, Hugh Harris – Hoosierland Chapter, Bob Heavenrich, and Charles Williams.

Report from the Chair – Scott introduced himself. He stated that the weather in Portland for the 2005 convention was a lot better. He announced that Bob Murray of the Blackhawk Chapter passed away recently. A moment of silence was observed.

Report from the Board of Directors – Al Weber, NRHS President, thanked everyone for coming and calling in. Electronic membership renewal has started and the beginning of October was followed by mail. People are still renewing by mail. Al also stated that we had a great convention.

Joe Maloney reported that he is heading up two committees - Digitizing of 8 mm films and donating the print library and other artifacts currently housed in Three Rivers MA. The film committee met on September 24, 2016, and has split the project. The 8 mm part is 75-80% completed, and the committee hopes to finish the digitizing work in early 2017. The remaining 25% is more difficult since it involves Super 8 films with sound, as well as determining how to best handle

the 16 mm films. The 16mm films are much more difficult to digitize since many were commercially produced and may still be copyrighted.

Tom Coughlin has put some of the 8mm on YouTube. He is focusing on films that have come from conventions: Baltimore 1948 and 1968, Roanoke 1957 and 1977. They are looking for anyone in those chapters to help identify scenes. Email Joe if you can help (vp@nrhs.com). The films of the 1940's & 50's are from Chicago, Northern Indiana, and Illinois.

The other project is the print library. The library at Storrs CT isn't interested in the entire collection. They would like to go through it and pick and choose what they want. Joe is looking into the Degolyer Library in Dallas. They are currently going through an expansion. They are experiencing some delays that are to our advantage. Joe will try to meet with them in mid-November. He'll have more to report in the spring.

Tim Hensley stated that he is pretty good at identifying N&W service and will look at the films. Carl Jensen reported that some members in the Roanoke Chapter can also do this and will work with Tim.

The Degolyer Library is located on the SMU campus but is not part of the university.

Final Nominations for Chair and Secretary-Del advised he has ballots for all members. There were no nominations from the floor. Al Baker moved to close the nominations and Becky Gerstung seconded. The motion carried. Roberta Ballard and Helen Shaak will pass out and then count the ballots. They will advise later in the meeting the results. Scott advised the members on the phone that they can vote by saying who they want. Hugh Harris advised he would rather wait unless needed to break a tie. Tim Hensley agreed with Hugh.

Old and New Business-

- a. Dues renewal status – Hugh Harris advised that the system is working OK. 348 renewals have been completed. There are still some minor problems but Amilia seems to be working OK. 40-45% are creating new accounts even though they already have one. When all are done he will have to put the two accounts together. Bob Heavenrich advised \$15,000. received so far. John Simanton asked when would the renewals be received in the mail. Hugh cleaned up the database and gave it all to Al Weber about three weeks ago. A question was asked about the read-only status in Amilia. Skip Waters was the one working on that and Hugh will have to check with him and report back. He thought that it had been resolved. Send an email to Hugh to make sure you get the information (hughrharris@aol.com).

- b. RailCamp Report – Becky Gerstung advised that a formal report would be given this afternoon with a PowerPoint presentation, put together by Bud Thompson, including photos of the campers. She also thanked the committee: Tony White, Director East; Alex Polimeni, Interim Director West this year; Bud Thompson and Bill Chapman worked with the partners out West; Carl Jensen, Education. The committee met on Thursday and discussed RailCamp's educational value. It's not a summer camp. It's an educational opportunity and we need to provide proof to our partners that there is value to the program. The partners have indicated that the campers are getting more out of it. There were two directors this year, which helped to cut down on expenses. There were also two new counselors, Frank Fowler and Ellen Scott. Anyone interested in being a counselor please talk to the committee. The partners were the same as last year. They all went above the previous year in what they did. We will continue with these partners for another year. We have sponsors from eight chapters, three groups and some individuals. Eighteen of the thirty-six campers this year had either full scholarships or financial assistance. If a camper needs financial assistance, it's there. We came in under budget for 2016. We are asking for the same amount for 2017 and keeping the enrollment fees the same. The tentative dates are June 25- July 1 in Wilmington DE and July 30 – August 6 in Tacoma WA. We're still waiting for finalization on the dates. If you will be sponsoring a camper, the committee needs to know by January 15. Sponsored campers get priority. Al Weber reported that Amtrak has an internal magazine and a two-page article was written about RailCamp and the NRHS. For more info on RailCamp email: railcampnrhs@yahoo.com.
- c. NRHS Fund – no one was present to report.
- d. Railroad History Procedure Manual – Richard Shelby reported that there is not much to update at this time. He and Doug Scott are the only two working on this project. They need additional assistance. The Roundhouse Survey is in FilePro software and he would like to convert it to Excel. However he does not have the software to open it. He will attach a list to the minutes when they come out. Contact Richard at rbshulby@verizon.net. Fred Kurtz stated he may have a copy of FilePro and will check.
- e. Affiliate Membership and Chapter Definition – Bob Ernst reported that one affiliate membership was approved at the Denver meeting. There are two to be voted on at the Board of Directors meeting: the former British Columbia chapter and the Florida East Coast Railway Society. Bob stated that this is still a work in progress.

Chapter Definition -There was no consensus at the last meeting so it is being dropped unless someone wants to take it. Tim Hensley reported that this is an ongoing problem in his chapter Ron Gawedzinski replied that this issue has been going on for several years and just keeps going on. He asked does the board have any advice and direction on how to address this. It's getting worse and we need a standardized guideline to work towards this. Discussion followed. Bob Ernst stated that he had looked at the current bylaws regarding membership. He couldn't come up with a definition. He would like input from the council. Then there would be something to work with. Scott asked if anyone on the council would like to take this on as the focal person. Fred Kurtz will chair and Tim Hensley will be on the committee. Fred will send an email to all council members for their input. More discussion followed.

Election Results – Roberta Ballard reported that Del Kittendorf is the new chair and Ellen Scott is the new secretary. It was a very close election. Del thanked everyone for his or her confidence in him. He also thanked Scott for taking over the new Advisory Council. Fred thanked Ellen for stepping up as secretary. He also thanked everyone for their support through his health issues.

Open Microphone

Fred Kurtz – The last bulletin was very nice but he received two copies. One was sent to him and one to his wife who is a family member. We need to get the database to show family members since this would save a lot of money. Two other members reported they also had this happen.

Ron Gawedzinski requested the status of the new membership brochure. Skip was going to take the prototype and rework it. Since Skip isn't at the meeting can anyone give a status? John Baake advised that the problem at the last meeting was that there was no place for a person to return the application by mail. He spoke with Bob Bitzer to make sure we have all the information that is needed for the lockbox. He has contacted Skip and the brochure should be out between one week and one month. He had hoped it would be available for this meeting. Ron stated he thought the Advisory Council would be seeing a revised prototype before it went to print. Hopefully we can see it at the next conference.

Ron also had a question for Bob Bitzer regarding the cost of lockbox changes and any issue with the Wells Fargo system. Have a new process or procedures been developed to handle that process? Bob replied that yes-major changes are being made to the program. There's a fixed cost for data entry and it's very expensive. It's no different from when Fernley & Fernley were doing it. One change is that we've had some volunteers come forward to do the lockbox

process. Steve Siegerist has agreed to take on this project with help from the St. Louis chapter. This will be a huge savings.

Al Weber is looking for a person with artistic talent to come up with a logo display for NRHS use at train shows and events. He also has three boxes of bulletins he would be glad to give to someone to distribute. He also suggested that we give business cards since they are very inexpensive.

Scott Andes said that Steve Wasby suggested we use a PO Box for mailing but there is no one willing to take care of that. We receive a lot of mail, especially at membership renewal time, and John Fiorilla's firm is handling it for us at no charge.

Becky Gerstung stated that the RailCamp Committee is also putting out a brochure. Members can distribute these at functions they attend.

Cora Sowa said it would be nice to have NRHS pens at events that we could give out but she didn't know the cost. John Goodman said he has info on pens and to see him for information.

John Goodman stated that the Railway Passenger Car Alliance gives a scholarship to a female camper. They've had no problems for the past few years but are now finding it difficult to find a candidate. If anyone knows of a possible candidate please contact either John or Becky.

Del Kittendorf would like the Advisory Council to consider electing a Vice Chair. This will probably mean changing the bylaws.

Feedback to the Board from the Advisory Council – There was nothing to bring to the Board.

Upcoming Conferences

- a. Winter 2017 – there will be no winter conference.
- b. Spring 2017 – currently looking into Wilmington DE in April.
- c. Summer 2017 Convention – Will be held in Nashville TN, June 20-25 at the Nashville Airport Hotel. The name will probably be changing and this will become a Hilton property. Room rates are \$129+tax per night. The rate is effective 2 days before and two days after. Registration will start on Tuesday afternoon. More info will be on the NRHS website as it become available.
- d. Scott Andes announced that the Advisory Council would meet at the spring and fall conferences and the convention.

Announcements

Carl Jensen reported that The Virginian Railway Station in Roanoke VA will have it's opening the second week in November. The *NRHS News* has an article on the restoration.

Al Weber advised that announcements like this should be put on the NRHS Facebook page. Charles Williams manages the page for us. Liz Patterson stated that Facebook has greatly improved their sales so definitely put items out there.

Bud Thompson reported that the Tacoma Chapter has been commissioned by the seaport to do an exhibit for the Northern Pacific Railroad. They built the building that the museum is housed in.

Al Baker advised that lunch will be served at 11:45 outside the meeting room.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:43AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Scott