

NRHS Advisory Council  
Kansa City MO Meeting  
October 21, 2017

Chairman Del Kittendorf called the meeting to order at 8:46 AM. He went over some general housekeeping items. Del then asked all council members to introduce themselves and their chapter.

John DeRoo, our local host from the Kansas City Chapter, stated that everything had gone very well so far. The trips were all a success. He asked that anyone who hasn't signed up for the banquet please do so. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the room.

President A Weber assigned the following directors to the meeting: Steve Siegerist, Jim Pahriss, and Joe Maloney.

A motion was made by Jon Baake to approve the agenda, seconded by John Simanton. Motion approved

A motion to accept the minutes of the Nashville TN minutes and posted on August 11, 2017 was seconded and passed.

Report from the Chair – All chapters should review their chapter information on the website. Send any corrections and/or omissions to Dawn at [dawn@dholmberg.com](mailto:dawn@dholmberg.com).

Officer and Committee Reports –

Al Weber, President – He is looking for people to take over some tasks. Currently looking for someone to take over membership items now cared for by the vice president. He reviewed what the task would entail. He's also looking for an Assistant Comptroller to with that position.

Joe Maloney, Vice President – Chapter awards for this year were 1 25 year and 6 50 year. He doesn't have the membership numbers with him. There is an election coming next year. The incumbents from District 3 and 7 are not going to run so need people to fill those positions. Film Library – The 8mm are now digitized. He's looking for funding for the 16 mm and the Super 8 films. He has finally gotten all the slides from Three Bridges and all are in the process of being digitized but there are more than the committee thought.

On another note, Bob Bitzer has been hospitalized. He has been moved from the ICU and waiting for more tests to be done. He gave out the mailing address for Bob. Print Library – sample scanning has come out very well. Hope to have all done by the end of the year.

NRHS Secretary – Bob Ernst is attending another meeting.

Hugh Harris, Membership – Data is in the new system but not ready for the web yet. He and Dawn will be working with NEON to integrate systems. Once that is done he will send an email out to all members on how to renew membership on line and, if necessary, where to mail your payment. He will also continue to accept renewals from the local chapters if that is what they want to do. This is a chapter option. The 2018 renewal cycle should begin in the beginning to mid November. There won't be a "trial" run unless a chapter requests it. A more detailed instruction will be sent out to all with how to renew online. Discussion regarding enrollment followed.

Jon Baake questioned if there would be a way to make donations with your renewal in the new system. Hug said this would be explained in the instructions. All members who have emails on file will receive emailed instructions. If you want an advance of the instructions, send an email to Hugh at [hugrharris@aol.com](mailto:hugrharris@aol.com). All members will receive instructions via US mail.

Bob Heavenrich – will give a detailed report at the BOD meeting. The audit was finalized and was clean. Ron Gawedzinski asked had the money been moved to the NRHS Fund yet. Bob said it was done at the beginning of the month. There was discussion regarding the balance sheet. A question was asked as to why couldn't the AC see un-audited financial info until the board votes on it. Al was advised by legal counsel that it has to be done this way.

Membership-cont. – Jim Pahrisk asked if each member would be getting a new membership number. Hugh advised that all members would retain their current membership number.

Membership Brochures, Jon Baake – There are some in the back of the room for people to take. Once these are gone, they are gone. He will begin working on the revision after this afternoon's meeting to get ready for the next printing.

RailCamp, Becky Gerstung – Becky thanked the committee for their work. 2017 was successful again. There were 24 boys at East and 11 boys, 1 girl at Northwest coming from 22 states. Everyone who requested tuition assistance received it; there were 13 full or partial scholarships given. Anyone can be a sponsor: individuals, chapters or other groups. The partners were once again wonderful in their support. The personnel were knowledgeable and friendly. Amtrak goes above and beyond every year. We didn't have to ask to come back, we were invited. We went over budget due to insurance. Both RailCamp and the convention split the insurance. For 2018 all partners have been contacted and committed. We just have to wait for the dates to fit with their schedules. In 2017 it was the last week in June for East and the first week in August for Northwest. Will probably be the same next year. She will get the information out as soon as the dates are confirmed.

Sponsors – the committee needs to know by 1/15 if you are planning to sponsor a camper, and the camper application must be received by 3/15, all other applications are due by 4/1. Even if you don't have a camper in mind, the committee needs to know your intentions by the 15<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored applicants get precedence. This holds a spot for that camper. Tuition is remaining at \$1290 with a \$50 application fee that is included.

Bob Heavenrich asked if all bills have been received. Becky has sent everything to Bob Bitzer.

Heritage Grants, Carl Jensen – Roanoke Chapter Challenge. The challenge has raised \$9606. Donations were the base contribution from Roanoke of \$3006, and an additional \$3000 in donations. The 10% match came to \$600. This is less than he hoped to raise at this point. They still need assistance from chapters and individuals. Jon Baake asked should the checks be sent directly to Roanoke and will he receive a letter for the IRS. Checks need to go to Roanoke to get the 10% match and he will see that a letter gets sent. The deadline for grants is April 1.

Donations to NRHS Fund – Money was to go directly to the Fund. How the check is made out is how it is deposited. Checks made out to the NRHS are deposited and then transferred to the Fund.

Del asked that if anyone is not receiving emails via the yahoo group to please see him.

Convention Committee, John Goodman – The past convention was very successful. The 2018 convention will be held in Cumberland. He has heard that the 1309 will definitely be running. However, John is making alternate plans in case this doesn't happen. The dates are August 7-12 and avoiding Friday meetings. Registration will open 4PM Tuesday 8/7. Wed will be a trip to Cass. This will be partly by bus to Cass then riding the Salamander and end in Elkins. Bus back to Cumberland. Thursday will be the 1309 trip of a lunch train. The advisory Council meeting will be at 3P with the board meeting that evening. Friday will go to Romney to ride the Potomac Eagle. There will be photo stops on this trip. Saturday will be a ride on the Everett Railroad in Hollidaysburg including lunch. The membership meeting will be in the afternoon and the banquet that evening. Sunday will be a trip to Horseshoe Curve. The hotel will be approximately \$90 per night with breakfast only. There are restaurants in the area.

Attractions List, Wes Ross – Thanks to all who participated this year. The new list should be out by the first of the year. Becky asked could these locations include our brochures at their locations.

#### Future Conferences:

Fall 2018 – Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter, Anthony Verbyla – Scranton PA October 11-13. The conference will be hosted at the Lackawanna Radisson Hotel. This is in conjunction with the chapter's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Two excursions are being worked on.

Spring 2018 – St. Louis Chapter, Ron Gawedzinski – being held in conjunction with the RLHS annual meeting and convention. The dates are May 30 – June 3 2018. Hosted at the St. Louis Union Station Hotel. The group rate for the rooms is \$139. When contacting the hotel make sure to mention Railway & Locomotive Historical Society Annual Meeting for the rate. Do not mention NRHS. The reservation cut off is May 2, 2018. Several activities are planned and details are still being worked on. More info at [RLHS.org/meetings/current/](http://RLHS.org/meetings/current/). NRHS wishing to attend both meeting need to register with the RLHS and the St. Louis Chapter NRHS. If only attending the NRHS functions, register with the St. Louis Chapter.

Publications, Charles Williams – Nothing to report. The Bulletin is at the printers.

Railroad History Procedure Manual, Richard Shulby – Nothing to report.

Board Chapter Definition Committee, Jim Pahr – The committee met several times both via email and phone. Their proposal is: That a chapter have at least ten (10) members to be established as a chapter, and at least five (5) National members to retain its charter. Jon Baake questioned how would we enforce this. Discussion followed regarding enforcement, chapter officers, National Rep, etc. Fred stated we should just go with the 10 and 5. That way no enforcement necessary. Jon Baake said we should amend the proposal to state that the National Rep must be an NRHS member. Approved by the members.

Jim brought up the definition of an Affiliate Member. Bob Ernst stated that we already have a definition as we already have this class of membership. The status is a subset of membership and not in the by-laws. Dues are already set. Definition followed regarding whether a by-law change is necessary or if this is a part of procedures. Ron read the By-laws and Al stated it does require a by-law change.

#### Old Business:

- A. Results of Workshop – Del advised he hadn't had time to finish compiling all the comments made at the meeting. He hopes to have it done for the next meeting.

#### New Business:

An attachment was included with the agenda. It is a letter to Al and Del with an opinion on when and where to have conventions. One of the issues was weather, which is something we cannot control, and the other was locations. John Goodman advised he would love to have a convention on the west coast, maybe LA or Albuquerque. He is working on the 2018 and 2019 conventions now.

Al stated he appreciates all the comments and letters. He needs the opinions of all members. Keep on writing!

Open Microphone - Jon Baake stated that his chapter wants to know something on current financial reports on how the organization is doing. They can't understand why they can't get some type of report. Discussion followed on the subject of financial reports.

Ron asked about the 2016 audit. As Bob Heavenrich stated earlier the audit was clean and no questions were asked. It will appear on the website shortly.

Wes Weis – We are currently in the combined federal campaign for federal employees and retirees to make contributions. Go back to your chapters and remind members to make a contribution to the NRHS.

John DeRoo stated that the BOD meeting would be at 1PM so we have an hour for lunch.

Del will take the AC's position on the 10/5 members for chapter description.

Fred Kurtz moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:59AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Scott