

NRHS Advisory Council
Nashville TN Convention Meeting
June 23, 2017

Chairman Del Kittendorf called the meeting to order at 8AM. He welcomed all to the meeting and went over housekeeping rules.

Del then introduced John Goodman, our local host for the convention. John advised that everything was going well so far. We've had some issues with the weather and a few hiccups with the hotel. He then went over the details for the trip the next day. Steve Barry went over the night photo shoot.

Del then advised that there are still tickets available for the banquet. There are seminars going on, and the NRHS membership brochures are available. Lunch will be a buffet from 11AM – 1PM; the charge is \$15. There is a donation jar for Mia Mather who has recently passed away. Donations will go toward the Heritage Grants.

Alternate Member – David Huesling is attending for the Saint Louis Chapter.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by John Simanton, seconded by Rick Davidson. The motion passed by voice vote.

Minutes from the Claymont DE meeting were posted on the Admin Site. Motion for approval made by Jon Baake, seconded. Motion passed by voice vote.

Del thanked Roberta Ballard for taking the minutes in Ellen's absence. He also thanked Wes Ross for his Attractions List.

Director's assigned to the meeting by President Weber: Doug Scott, Steve Barry, and Jim Pahriss.

Officer & Committee Reports

President's Report – President Weber welcomed everyone. He stated that he is asked most of all about Ken Brooks. Ken had a diabetic incident and is currently in intensive care. He is doing well and hopes to be out shortly.

Vice President – Joe Maloney was not present. His report has been posted online.

NRHS Secretary – Bob Ernst had nothing to report.

Treasurer – Bob Bitzer advised he would cover more at the Board meeting this afternoon. We are solvent and have received several large donations. The 2016 audit is currently being done and is almost completed. We also have an investment account up and running.

Comptroller – Bob Heavenrich reported that Al and Bob Bitzer have been attending meetings regarding a change in the way reporting will be done by non-profits. It is a new accounting standard. All chapters should make sure their accountants are aware that this is happening.

Membership – Al Weber reported that we will be replacing Amilia with Neon. The company is used by other railroad groups and is willing to work with our requirements and us. Neon will be used at the next dues renewal cycle. Discussion followed regarding membership listings on the website and family membership.

Del thanked Jon Baake for his work on the membership brochures. Jon stated that they are already starting to make changes for the next printing. If you have any, please write them down rather than telling him verbally. He can also ship brochures if needed.

Membership classes-The committee has made changes and this will be discussed at the board meeting this afternoon.

RailCamp Report – Carl Jensen paraphrased Becky's report. A full report will be given at the Fall meeting. (See Attachment A for report).

Heritage Grants – Carl Jensen reported his chapter has come up with a way to raise money for the grant program. (See attachment B for the full report.)

Convention Committee – Al Weber reported that there was some confusion regarding an email he sent out about the RLHS meeting in St. Louis. He was not looking to have the convention there since we will be having a joint meeting with them next year. His thought was that we could have a table there to get our name out.

John Goodman reported that several of the committee members had gone to Cass to research lodging and events. Unfortunately due to pipeline construction in the area, the best hotel choice was not available. To use the condos at the top of the mountain would be prohibitive due to the cost of busses. After discussion of alternative sites, Cumberland MD was felt to be the best choice.

2019 will be in Salt Lake City. There are no rooms in Ogden so it will be in Salt Lake City. There is a rumor that there is a special train leaving Council Bluffs to Ogden. He is trying to find out if it is a VIP excursion or open to all.

2020 will possibly be in the William AZ/ Grand Canyon area.

Discussion followed with other ideas for possible conventions.

Conferences – Bob Bitzer turned the mic over to John DeRoo for the conference in Kansas City, October 19-21. John gave a description of the conference details and reported that the information has gone out. If anyone needs it, he has it with him.

Bob reported we need conference locations. There are proposals in the works for fall of 2018 and 2019, but we have no spring locations. This is a great way to showcase your chapter.

Board Chapter Definition Committee – no report. A motion was made to recommend to the board that this matter be pushed forward. Motion carried by voice vote.

Old Business

There are two attendance sheets going around. Make sure you sign the correct one.

New Business

Del advised he was going to try something new. Richard Shulby, Jon Baake and John Simanton are to lead 3 groups. The purpose is for ideas on "how can we enhance the image of the NRHS as in the realm of rail preservation". Or how do we get our name out there in order to raise funds and improve membership. We'll break out and when we come back, each leader will present 1-2 ideas from their group.

John Simanton- 1. Wear NRHS merchandise

2. Boost discount list

Richard Shulby – 1. Sharing ideas/techniques with other preservation groups

2. 1-2 minute YouTube presentations

Jon Baake - 1. Utilize high school volunteer requirement

2. Strengthen affiliate group-promote NRHS

3. Utilize web/social media

Announcements:

1. Make sure you've signed the attendance sheets
2. Sign up for the banquet if you haven't already
3. Pick up brochures
4. Attend a seminar
5. Lunch buffet is \$15

6. Make a donation in memory of Mia Mather

A suggestion was made that the seminars be videoed so that you can see them if you can't attend. Maybe put them on YouTube.

Action Items to take to the Board:

1. Advisory council recommends the 2018 convention be held in Cumberland MD
2. Take action on the chapter definition

Jon Baake questioned why we are constrained to 4 days for the convention. Because of this we have trips and seminars running concurrently with meetings. We shouldn't be double scheduling. Richard Shulby stated that the original intention was not to have a meeting at the convention but somehow we have agreed to hold them.

John Simanton moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:55

Respectively submitted,

Ellen Scott
Advisory Council Secretary

Attachment A

2017 RAILCAMP INTERIM REPORT – June 23, 2017

RailCamp 2017 begins on Sunday, so there is nothing to report yet about the camps.

This year we have 35 young men and one young lady attending RailCamp from 22 states. Thirteen of them are receiving full tuition from NRHS chapters and other sponsors. Every camper needing financial assistance has been helped. Thanks to other donations and all the volunteers we have been able to keep the same tuition for the past three years even with rising costs of housing, food, transportation and insurance.

All of our partners have been extremely helpful arranging interesting and educational programs for these campers. Once again the University of Delaware, Newark, and the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, will be housing campers and staff. Directors Tony White, East, and Bud Thompson, Northwest, have handled all the details with each venue to provide a week of memorable experiences for these young people.

Look for articles in THE NEWS on each camp. We hope to have a brochure ready for 2018 promotion soon. Contact the committee at railcampnrhs@yahoo.com and we will send some to you. It's not too early to look for candidates for the 2018 season. The application will be available January 1, 2018, on the NRHS website.

If your chapter is considering sponsoring a camper you must notify the committee by January 15th of your intention. The application deadline for sponsored campers is March 1st. Sponsored campers, when accepted by the committee, are given priority placement. Do not assume your candidate is accepted. The committee's final decision will be made after review of the application and interviews with references. Contact the committee for sponsor guidelines.

There will be a full report of the 2017 camps at the October conference in Kansas City.

Rebecca Gerstung, RailCamp Program Chairman

Attachment B

ROANOKE CHAPTER CHALLENGE GRANT TO SUPPORT NRHS GRANTS PROGRAM

The Chapter Board has moved to help support the NRHS Grants Program, which has been underfunded for several years. Because of this underfunding, there was only \$20,000 of money available in 2017. Some 36 applications were received but only 8 awards were made, the largest being \$3,000 with others of lesser amounts. With few exceptions, Grants made were only able to partially fund the amounts requested.

To help support the Program, and assist in jump-starting the 2018 available money, the Chapter will donate \$3,000 and has established a matching challenge offer of up to \$2,000 more. The provisions are shown below:

1. ROANOKE CHAPTER DONATES \$3,000 TO START AN INITIAL CHALLENGE FOR ALL OTHER NRHS CHAPTERS AND OTHERS WHO MAY WISH TO CONTRIBUTE BY DONATION IN INCREMENTS OF AT LEAST \$500 TOWARD GROWING THE AVAILABLE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE NEXT ANNUAL NRHS GRANT PROGRAM. THIS \$3,000 IS COMMITTED REGARDLESS OF WHATEVER CHALLENGES MAY BE RECEIVED AS OUTLINED BELOW.
2. ROANOKE CHAPTER CHALLENGES OTHER CHAPTERS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS INTERESTED IN RAILROAD PRESERVATION BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO JOIN IN THIS PROJECT. ROANOKE WILL MATCH 10% FOR EACH DONATION OF AT LEAST \$500 CONTRIBUTED BY OTHERS
3. *Example:* 20 Donations @ \$500 each = \$10,000 + matches @10% x \$500 = \$1,000 or a total of \$11,000.
IN ADDITION TO THE INITIAL DONATION BY THE CHAPTER OF \$3,000, THEN WE WILL RAISE \$14,000.
IF THE CHALLENGES ARE MET WITH THE EQUIVALENT OF 20 \$1,000 DONATIONS THEN ROANOKE'S 10% CHALLENGE MATCH WOULD RESULT IN A TOTAL OF \$25,000 GENERATED FOR THE GRANTS FUND. (20x\$1,000 = \$20,000 plus 10% x \$20,000 = \$2,000 Total \$22,000 + \$3,000 = \$25,000).
4. INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS CHAPTERS MAY CONTRIBUTE. MINIMUM CONTRIBUTION IS \$500 (PREFERABLY \$1,000), OR MORE AND MAY BE DONATED IN \$100 INCREMENTS BEYOND THAT AMOUNT. ALL WILL BE MATCHED BY ROANOKE AT 10% OF THE DONATION. DONORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS AND APPLY FOR MATCHING FUNDS FROM THEIR EMPLOYER OR OTHER ORGANIZATION THAT HAS THAT SERVICE AVAILABLE. BOTH ROANOKE CHAPTER AND THE NATIONAL NRHS ARE TAX EXEMPT 501c3 CHARITABLE ORGNIZATIONS.
5. THIS PROGRAM WILL BEGIN JULY 1, AND CONTINUE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY FEBRUARY 1, 2018, AT WHICH TIME ALL FUNDS COLLECTED WILL BE EARMARKED FOR THE 2018 GRANTS.
6. MAKE ALL DONATIONS PAYABLE TO Roanoke Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 13222, Roanoke, VA 24032. DONATIONS MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED: EARMARKED FOR NRHS GRANTS PROGRAM . DONATIONS PLUS THE 10% MATCH FROM THE CHAPTER WILL BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE NRHS FUND FOR DEPOSIT.
7. A FORM MUST ACCOMPANY THE DONATION, TO BE SENT TO THE CHAPTER FOR ACCOUNTING AND MATCHING TO BE COUNTED. (Form to be available from the Chapter at www.RoanokeNRHS.org)