

**Minutes of the Eighty Sixth
NRHS Annual Membership Meeting
GoToMeeting Video Conference
Saturday, September 26, 2020**

Pursuant of notice, the members of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. met via GoToMeeting Video Conference on Saturday, September 26, 2020.

1 - Call to Order

President Al Weber called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. EDT. Seventy-eight members and guests logged into the conference.

2 - Approval of Minutes

Secretary Bob Ernst presented the minutes of the membership meeting held in Salt Lake City, UT on May 8, 2019. There were no comments received from NRHS members that affected the wording on the draft minutes. President Al Weber accepted the minutes.

3 - President's Report

President Weber welcomed everyone to the video conference which was the first time in NRHS history the membership was not able to attend the NRHS Annual Membership Meeting in person. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the 2020 NRHS Convention, NRHS Spring Conference and NRHS Fall Conference were cancelled. In addition, the 2020 RailCamp program was cancelled.

Looking forward into 2021 the NRHS Spring Conference will not be held. The 2021 NRHS Convention will be held in Milwaukee, WI and the NRHS Fall Conference will be held in Ronkonkama, NY. This is subject to any travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The NRHS Board of Directors held one virtual meeting in June. Another virtual meeting of the Board will be scheduled this Fall.

Al has attended some virtual chapter meetings. He is encouraged that many chapters have adapted to holding their meetings online.

Since the last Membership Meeting the NRHS website has been upgraded. He urged the members to view the site and to submit appropriate material which may be added to the site.

4 - Introduction of Officers and Staff

President Weber announced the results of the 2020 NRHS Elections. Since the election has been certified all elected Officers and Directors are now members of the NRHS Board.

Al thanked the outgoing Vice President, Joe Maloney, and Directors for their service on the Board.

5 - New Business

The Secretary received 1352 proxies via mail from the membership.

New Business

A) Bylaws Changes

Item 1A: Reduce the size of the Board of Directors from 25 to 11 Board Members by changing salient portions of Article VII, Sections 2 and, 3, and deleting Article VII, Section 5 altogether.

Yes = 1261 No = 55

Item 1B: Reduce the terms of Board Members from 4 years to 2 years by changing salient portions of Article VII, Sections 6 and 9.

Yes = 1224 No = 92

Item 1C: Eliminate voting districts and provide for members to directly vote for all Board of Directors Members by changing salient portions of Article VII, Section 6, and deleting Article VII, Section 5.

Yes = 1230 No = 86

Item 1D: Confirming previous Board of Directors' actions that created the position of Assistant Treasurer.

Yes = 1290 No = 26

The newly adopted Bylaws will be posted to the NRHS admin site.

B) Other Business

No business was brought forward at the meeting.

6 – Questions and Initiatives from the Membership

No comments or questions were received prior to the meeting.

The video conference was opened for questions.

Member Edward Koehler asked if each of the Heritage Grants recipients are vetted prior to be awarded a grant.

President Weber answered that the Heritage Grants Committee does vet each application based on a set of criteria the committee uses. He has extreme confidence in this committee and their award process.

A member asked via the chat room if members would be able to opt out of receiving hard copies of the *NRHS News* or *NRHS Bulletin*.

President Weber responded that logistically it would be very difficult to maintain that type of list. Also, there is cost factor when producing the material. Some of the NRHS membership do not use email or computers and the mailed copies of this material is the only communication received by these members.

Member Fred Kurtz asked what the current NRHS membership level is.

President Weber responded the current membership lies between 5000 and 6000 members. The NRHS membership has been steady over the last few years. Membership Director Hugh Harris noted that new membership in the NRHS has equalized the membership loss each year. NRHS Director Jon Baake told the group that he has membership brochures available for distribution. He may be contacted directly for a supply.

7 - Adjournment

President Weber adjourned the meeting at 1:30pm EDT

Respectfully submitted

Robert J. Ernst
Secretary
National Railway Historical Society