



**Meeting of the Board of Directors  
Nugget Casino & Hotel,  
Sparks, NV  
May 21, 2023**

President Tony White called the meeting to order at 1:08 PM PDT. He then thanked the SPRHC and L&RHS for allowing us to join with them for this meeting. He also thanked all who worked on this meeting and those who attended. He then asked for a moment of silence for all those who have passed.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND ROLL CALL**

First Name	Middle	Last Name	Title	Present	Absent
Tony		White	President	A	
Joe		Maloney	Vice President	A	
Ellen		Scott	Secretary/Director	A	
Ralph	Robert	Bitzer	Treasurer/ Director	A	
Scott		Andes	Director	A	
Kevin		Feeney	Director	A	
Eric		Fogg	Director	A	
John		Goodman	Director	A	
Skip		Waters	Director	A	
Charlie		Webb	Director	A	
Jon		Baake	Director	A	

Also in attendance: Victor Varney, Tom Gallagher, Elizabeth Guenzler, Richard Shulby, Doug Scott, Patti Webb, Carl Jensen, Marvin Rodgers, Bob Leslie, Christopher Guenzler, David McGowan, Ron Gawedzinski, John Simanton, Bob Brewster, Cora Sowa, Jim Perry, Pam Baake, Directors Emeritus: Wes Ross, Bob Ernst, Walter Zullig, General Counsel John Fiorilla.

Agenda- Ellen advised that a revised agenda was sent out to all last night. Some items were deleted, and others were added. She was unable to make copies at the hotel she was staying in. She asked for a motion to approve the agenda, seconded, approved.

Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Agreements- Ellen reported that we are still missing a few board members and chapter reps. She and Elizabeth are doing what they can to get the forms signed.

Release of Confidential Documents- This applies to both the Board and the Advisory Council. We discuss a lot of confidential information that should not be discussed with outside persons. All members should be signing.

**Minutes of the March 2023 meeting (Zoom)**- John Goodman moved that the minutes be approved as sent, Scott Andes seconded, passed.

**President's Report** – President White reported that a lot has been going on in the past months. He has been working on a lot of projects. A lot of work is being done by all the committees. He tried to mention the NRHS to all he meets and asks them to join. He then asked Jon Baake for a status on **Membership Brochures**. Jon reported that he has 150 requests for brochures coming from the Attractions List. The total is approximately 10,000 brochures. He will mail them when he gets home. When visiting attractions, check to see if they have our brochures. If not, refer them to Jon. He will send them brochures.

**Vice President's Report** – Joe Maloney. Reported he contacted the group working on the ALCO Historic Photos. They had slowed down due do issues with the digitization equipment. He asked them how much would be needed to help speed up the process. The amount was small, and he donated the funds to get them working. The process is still slow, but they should be done in 3-4 years.

**Heritage Grants** – Charlie Webb. See Appendix 1.

**Attractions List** – Shirley & Wes Ross. Wes thanked Val and Dawn for their assistance. Brochures will go out to all those who requested them.

**Advisory Council** – Richard Shulby.

Chapter Survey- 119 were sent out and they received 74 responses. The survey will be sent to Ellen to distribute. A complete report will be done by September. They plan to respond to all and form a Chapter Discussion Group.

Carl Jensen will be chairing a committee to determine locations and dates for conferences and conventions.

**Convention Reports** – John Goodman. John was asked not to come to East Broad Top until 2025 due to work being done. He's looking at Vancouver/Toronto for 2025, also Albuquerque and the Cumbres & Toltec. Steve Sandberg spoke to him about Iowa Interstate and Moline/Rock Island. The Challenger will not be ready until 2025 and the 2 Chinese Interstate engines will also not be ready. In Cumberland, the 1309 is not running. We have discussed Maine and Michigan in the past. In Maine, the hotel prices are too high, and in Michigan, the problem is where to house people.

See Appendix 2 for detail on the 2023 convention.

**Conferences** – Bob Bitzer. Bob thanked Scott Inman and the groups for the meetings. As for the future, there are no locations for future conferences. Conferences are usually run by the chapters. We need to talk to our chapters regarding running a conference. One option is to hold one day meetings for business only. It has been done in the past. Suggestion, in Philadelphia, stay at the airport hotel and there are things to do in the city on your own. Springdale lost money on their conference and the NRHS subsidized them. We can't keep doing that. North Texas was another option.

**RailCamp** – Tony White. RailCamp West was a challenge due to the college. We had to move the date from August to the week before East camp. In the East, we had personnel changes with many companies. Tuition was raised this year. Chapters and other groups provided 13 full scholarships. No chapter referrals were turned down. We received 50 applications. Due to the years cancelled due to Covid, East camp increased participants to 28 from 24. The Richard Eichhorst Estate gave \$30,000 for campers in the St. Louis area.

RailCamp has a new initiative to find out what has happened to our prior campers. We will be interviewing past campers to see what they are now doing.

**Membership** – Patti Webb. Appendix 4

**NRHS News** – Valli Hoski. Appendix 5

**Membership Award Pins** – Doug Scott. Appendix 6.

## **OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Dues Processing** – Tony White. The team is Mike Yuhas, Carol Ann Cornelius, Tony White, and Patti Webb. They are moving ahead with online membership renewals. Currently we have chapters that collect dues from their members and sending the names with one check. The committee is revising the spreadsheet currently being used to process check payments from the chapter members.

**Budget** – Bob Bitzer. His workload is much heavier with the loss of Carol Ann. We have had 3-4 people in the past handling the financial workload of the Society.. We have special tax requirements, donations, etc. He needs an Assistant Treasurer that is familiar with QuickBooks Pro. If you know of anyone in your chapter, please contact Bob. There will be a meeting at the end of the month with Bowers & Co, our new auditors, they do non-profit work and other railroad work. We will need guidance on finding accounting firms to handle our work. Donations are also down this year from the past. We will have to look into ways to fund raise. See Appendix 7

**Conflict of Interest Agreement** – Ellen will continue to get signatures from the board and send updated lists to the Advisory Council as she receives the agreements.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Publicity Committee** – Mike Yuhas. He thanked Skip for the work he is doing with Facebook. Mike is looking into the possibility of working with Facebook for donations. Bob Ernst stated that we have applied in the past and been declined. The reason was that we are not considered a charity is due to the type of content we have on our Facebook site and pages. Charlie will get the grant recipient information to Skip for posting on Facebook. Mike also said that the Membership Brochures are a great means of publicity. Placement is great Advertising.

**Chapter Development** – Skip Waters. Chapters are important. They are the front line of our organization. Today we promote a new chapter, Wichita Falls Railroad Museum. On April 16 at a City Council meeting, it was brought up to get rid of all the equipment in the museum. Steve Jackson spoke up and stated he wanted to ask the community on their thoughts. A meeting was held on 4/15 with 30+ people showing up. He spoke to them, and they came up with a strategy. They elected a board and officers. Skip spoke to them about the NRHS, and they decided to become a chapter. They drafted a Letter of Intent, went before the Council again, and got the go-ahead. Unfortunately, most of the artifacts are gone, but they do have the equipment. They currently have 8 members. Skip made a motion that we accept the Wichita Falls Railroad Museum as a new chapter, Kevin Feeney seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Railroad Recognition Committee** – Mike Yuhas, Victor Varney, Ed Bernsten, and Tony White. This committee started in September at the Springdale, AR meeting. The concept was that the NRHS would work with an outside organization that has credibility in the railroad industry and would be a railroad preservation project. We will be working with Railway Age and Railway Track and Structures magazines to recognize and honor a North American common carrier railroad for a historically significant preservation project completed or put into operation in the last five years. The nomination form will be on the NRHS website and detail the program. It is currently being worked on. Nominations will begin on 5/22 and close on July 31, 2023. All NRHS members will be informed about this project via email. Mike thanked Victor and Ed with their help on this project.

**Rail Auxiliary Team (RAT)** – Charlie Webb. Patti and Charlie were out photographing trains and came upon a woman also at the tracks. She belongs to a group called the Rail Auxiliary Team or RAT. They support the local sheriff. Their operation is very similar to Operation Lifesaver. They discussed the NRHS with her and she was very interested. Later in the day they encountered a distraught woman wandering in between the tracks. They knew a train was coming so Charlie called the emergency number for the railroad while Patti called 911. Within minutes the railroad, sheriff's office, ambulance etc. arrived. This program may help the NRHS get more members, volunteers, and younger members. Several board members agreed we should look into this program.

**Money Transfer** – Bob Bitzer. Money is transferred between the Fund and the NRHS. Our source of income is dues and donations. Donations go to grants, programs, and the general fund. The funds received are matched to the commitment for the year to the grant program. We currently have approximately \$95,700 in donations since the last grant period. The period in 4/1/22 – 3/31/23 and includes monies from the Freeman Trust. The Fund and Bob will discuss, and a transfer will be made to cover the \$125,000, in grants for 2022.

**Emergency Grant** – Joe Maloney. In 1953, the Winchester VA chapter of the NRHS was given a B&O caboose. The chapter found a location for it and has maintained it up through the years. The City of Winchester has decided to repurpose the location and the caboose needs to be moved. The chapter has found a location and a moving company. They are looking for \$5000 to cover the move. Joe made a motion to approve the \$5000 to the Winchester Chapter. Seconded by Scott Andes. The grant is being done this way since the Heritage Grant program was completed for the year. The chapter will have to follow the same procedures as the grant recipients. The motion passed. Skip asked that the NRHS receive some recognition for the grant. Joe will reach out to the chapter to advise the funds will be coming, and Charlie will send them the grant paperwork to be completed.

### **Announcements**

Richard Shulby stated that he will be updating the Extant Roundhouse Survey. He will also be adding bygone roundhouses. The survey will be easier to access.

There being no further business, Kevin Feeney made a motion to adjourn at 3:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ellen Scott*

Ellen Scott  
National Secretary

Minutes Approved September 2, 2023, DoubleTree by Hilton, Deerfield Beach, FL

## APPENDIX 1

## NRHS Heritage Grants Committee — Committee Report, May 12, 2023

Deadline for applications submission for 2023 was January 31, 2023. The deadline was moved up one month to facilitate getting the funds into the hands of the recipients by May. This was done so that work that was weather and volunteer sensitive could be completed by the recipients over the summer months.

The NRHS Heritage Grants Committee received 50 applications for the 2023 program. These are received via the NRHS Website. George Hickok is our Registrar and was tasked with receiving the applications, reviewing for completeness and placing in "Drop Box" files for the committee to download and review. This is an enormous job and George's efforts are greatly appreciated by me and the Committee.

Applications were reviewed by the Committee. Review completed in early April. This too is an enormous job. I am especially grateful for the time and effort put forth by our committee members (see below). Our committee members bring a wealth of information and experience to the process.

Available funds for awards: \$125,000.00, Total amount requested was: \$289,581.00  
25 Awards were approved for a total of \$124,950.00

List of finalists prepared and submitted to President White who approved the recommendations of the Committee.

Acceptance Agreements and Terms and Condition acknowledgments submitted and approved by John Fiorilla (NRHS Counsel - Thank you John)

Copies of agreements sent to NRHS Treasurer Bob Bltzer for disbursement of Heritage Grants funds (Thank you Bob)

Notices to recipients sent via email. (Thank you Patti Webb)

Notices to those not selected were sent via email (Thank you Patti Webb)

Awardees list submitted to NRHS Website and posted (Thank you Dawn Holmberg)

Awardees list submitted to NRHS News for May edition. (Thank you Val Hoski for holding the deadline for our committee and for Elizabeth Guenzler for editing)

An "After Action Review" will be completed by the committee in June to review this year's program and process and to develop additional streamlining suggestions for the 2024 Heritage Grants Program. Date / Time TBD.

2024 program: It is our hope to again have the comprehensive applications available on the NRHS Website by early November. Deadline will most likely be January 31, 2024.

Issues with 2023 Program: many applicants failed to realize that they were required to submit the application, Acceptance Agreement and signed Terms and Conditions with the original submission. This caused considerable work in reaching back out to the applicants before the final selections were able to be processed. This resulted in a delay in our self-imposed streamlined time line of getting the funds to the

recipients. This will be discussed and resolved by the committee going forward. This is why we released two separate lists of grant recipients.

Other Heritage Grants Committee work:

Tracking: We are keeping tracking sheets for each of the recipients of Heritage Grants going back to 2020. Recipients are required to provide periodic updates and close out reports. Additionally, the Committee is working with Val Hoski to turn the closeout reports into articles for the NRHS News. This shows our membership the effects of the Heritage Grants Program and provides the recipients publicity for their projects to the NRHS membership.

Time Extensions: Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic we also issued time extensions to several of the past recipients. Their efforts are being tracked as well.

Request for Emergency Grant: Winchester Chapter, NRHS. The Chapter has been asked to remove its 1900 1-I B&O caboose from Clear Brooke Park in Frederick County, Virginia.

Committee Members: (Please note the tremendous effort these committee members exert in collecting, registering, distributing applications, researching and evaluating applications and participating in Zoom meetings and the final selection process. As noted above this group brings an enormous amount of energy, enthusiasm, experience, knowledge and skill to the process. I am most grateful for their time and effort).

1. Walter Zullig
2. Richard Davidson
3. Doug Scott
4. Carl Jensen
5. Ed Bernstsen
6. Larry Dyer
7. George Hickok
8. Bob Brewster
9. Patrick Molloy
10. Patti Webb

Anyone wishing to serve on the NRHS Heritage Grants Committee, please contact Charlie Webb (Chair) at

Thank you. Charlie Webb, Chair, NRHS Heritage Grants Committee

## APPENDIX 2

## 2023 Convention

Friday, September 1	Registration Room opens at 4PM 7 PM Fund meeting 7 PM Seminar: Seth Branson -FL East Coast
Saturday, September 2	Meetings 8:30 AM. Advisory Council 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Board of Directors 3:30 PM. Membership Meeting 7:00 PM Seminar: Walter Zullig
Sunday, September 3	Brightline to Orlando Airport
Monday, September 4	US Sugar Railroad Ride the Sugar Express Steam Train, Lunch in Lake Placid
Tuesday, September 5	Choice: 1. Guided transit tour including the entire Tri-Rail and Metro Rail systems 2. Henry Morrison Flagler Museum
Wednesday, September 6	Gold Coast Railroad Museum Ride on Tri-Rail Commuter Ride the museum's train

See the NRHS website for more detailed information



## Appendix 3

RailCamp Report  
May 2023

RailCamp 2023 is off to a great start. We had such a large number of applicants this year. It took a lot of time to interview and narrow the list to only 40 lucky young men. Unfortunately, we had only one girl apply very late in the process and she would have been the youngest camper. Because of the Covid cancellations, there were several requests from teens who had applied those years. We tried to take that into consideration. We received permission from our partners to accept 28, not 24, campers to RailCamp East.

This year we have campers from 21 states. Chapters and other groups have provided 13 full scholarships and we awarded financial assistance to five more campers. We have never turned down an applicant based on his/her ability to pay. This is why RailCamp funds in reserve are so important. We received a scholarship from a family in memory of their son who passed away at Christmastime. I am waiting for the mail for a check (amount unknown) from a lady in memory of her husband.

Our partners are ready and waiting to host our campers. It will be a terrific year for RailCamp.

Becky Gerstung  
RailCamp Program Director

## Appendix 4

### NRHS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT MAY 21, 2023 SPARKS, NV CONFERENCE

#### Membership Cards

Membership cards have been mailed in two separate mailings to date. We are currently working on the third batch of membership card mailings.

#### Membership Statistics

Current membership (as of 5/12/23)

Regular members: 3,389

Family members: 583

Student members: 46

Total membership: 4,018

Members whose memberships expired 12/31/2022: 667

- Loss of members due to death, financial issues and lack of interest
- Renewal notice reminder sent in March 2023

New members since 1/1/2023: 160

Members who have renewed or joined online since 11/1/2022 (Neon Pay)

Via credit card:

1,954

Via PayPal: 444

Via e-check/ACH: 23

Total online joins/renews: 2,421 (about 60% of all membership transactions)

#### 2024 Membership Committee Goals

- Continued utilization of Neon CRM to its maximum potential for on-line renewals, new memberships and email communication with the membership
- Streamline Chapter renewal transmittals
- Implementation of virtual membership cards
- Assist with NRHS marketing effort to retain current membership and gain new members
- Continued outreach effort to former members

#### Membership Committee Members

Patti Webb, Chairperson

Mike Yuhas

Tony White  
Becky Gerstung  
Steve Siegerist

A special thank you to the Membership Committee for your dedication to the NRHS members.

Membership keeps the NRHS on track for the future!

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Webb  
NRHS Membership Committee Chairperson

## Appendix 5

### May 2023 Status report - NRHS News

#### NRHS News

New features/sections added in 2023.

- Event Board – special section for chapter announcements, upcoming events (train shows, excursions, etc.) Please send a JPEG file suitable for use on 8 ½ by 11 inch page.
- Back Page – feature for members to showcase a single photograph in the News. Have the perfect image from a photo opportunity? New member with new rail photos? A black-and-white or color image is accepted. Submit the image (PNG or JPEG file) with caption and photographer information please. to [News@nrhs.com](mailto:News@nrhs.com).
- The Final Ride – special article contributed by President Tony White to honor and remember our members who have taken their final train ride.
- News RPO – Enjoy the News? Have a comment, suggestion or feature to suggest? Write and tell us, please, Don't have email? Put a stamp on it and send us a letter. Your ideas, requests and thoughts are welcome.
- Questions, suggestions and submissions are welcome at [News@nrhs.com](mailto:News@nrhs.com) .

#### Publication status

Nine issues published each year.

- Six are color PDF format, posted on NRHS admin site (<https://admin.nrhs.com> ). Length of print issue is usually 20-30 pages.
- Three issues are black / white only, printed and mailed to members. Each is 10 pages.
- Submissions by chapters, organizations, members are ALWAYS welcome. Chapter announcements, events, excursions, celebrations and historical memories are eagerly sought. Photos are especially appreciated.
- For submission tips, contact Valli Hoski at [news@nrhs.com](mailto:news@nrhs.com) .

Issue status to date.

- issues so far in 2023 - February 2023 online PDF, March 2023 mailed issue, April 2023 online PDF, May issue online PDF.
- Upcoming scheduled issues - June 2023 online and August 2023 with the October, November and December issues to follow.

#### NRHS Directory of Rail Attractions

- Planned as June Supplement to the News. Compiled by Wesley and Shirley Ross.
- The 2022 Guide is available as a PDF file on the public NRHS web site (<https://nrhs.com>).

Thanks to members, chapters, national leadership and all who help to ensure the success of the NRHS News and the NRHS Rail Attraction Guide. Many thanks to Elizabeth Guenzler (Central Coast Chapter) and Eileen Weber (St. Louis Chapter) for their excellent editorial assistance.

Hope to see you at the 2023 National Convention in September.  
Respectfully submitted, Valli Hoski (email: [News@nrhs.com](mailto:News@nrhs.com))

## Appendix 6

2023 Membership Award Pin distribution: This year we are  
awarding

51 Twenty-five-year pins  
32 Fifty-year pins  
6 Sixty-year pins  
2 Seventy-five-year pins

Special recognition please for:

***Philip B. Bush, AT LARGE member***  
***D. Wallace Johnson, OLD DOMINION CHAPTER***

Both of these gentlemen have been with the NRHS for 75  
years!!

Report submitted by Doug Scott, Membership Award Chairman

May, 2023

## Appendix 7

### 2023 Spring Treasurers Status Report

To the Officers and Board of Directors of the National Railway Historical Society and the Officers and members of the NRHS Advisory Council

I hope this letter finds both you and your families in good health, and enjoying the spring weather. I look forward to seeing many of you at the joint conference in Reno, NV with the R&LHS and the SPRHC

First off I would like to provide some updates for our 2021 accounting year. The NRHS IRS 990 tax filing was filed on time (11/15/22). Our accounting firm of RKL completed it and it was filed electronically. We are in the final stages of review and sign-off of the Auditors Report letter and filing the BC-10 with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We will be ending our long term business relationship with our current auditors RKL. They had been responsible for our corporate yearly accounting audits and the completion and filing of all NRHS tax returns. This termination was a mutual agreement based on the needs of the Society and the future business model of RKL. Starting this year (2023) Society we will be using a new audit and accounting firm. They are Bowers and Company in Syracuse, NY. Agreements have been entered into with them and the changeover process has begun. They will be responsible for the 2022 tax filings and our required corporate audit.

There are no interim financial statements included with this report. The reasons for this are the transition to the new accounting firm and the loss of the Assistant Treasurer. All financial functions such as bank statements, processing payments, deposits, financial transfers, etc. continue to be handled as required and on schedule.

The Society has attempted to fill the position of Assistant Treasurer from its membership ranks with no success to date. An article in the March issue of the NRHS News asking for a volunteer to help us resulted in no responses. We are now researching options of using outside accounting services to assist in the bookkeeping functions of the Society. However, if you are interested in being part of the Society's financial team contact me. My number is 301-206-5321, email is [treasurer@nrhs.com](mailto:treasurer@nrhs.com) .

Questions related to NRHS finances should be directed to the NRHS Treasurer.  
Thank you for your continued support of the National Railway Historical Society. You keep us on track.

## Bob Bitzer

NRHS Treasurer