

NRHS Emergency Board of Directors Meeting  
February 28, 2024  
Via Zoom

President Tony White called the meeting to order at 8:01PM.

Housekeeping – President White requested that everyone please mute their devices. When wishing to speak, please raise your hand.

Attendance – Ellen Scott

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	

A = Present, X = Absent

Also in attendance were John Fiorilla, General Counsel, Robert Ernst, NRHS Fund President, and Walter Zullig, Inspector General. Harold Shaak, Dawn Holmberg, Elizabeth Guenzler, Dan Meyer, Ken Eddy, Wes Ross, Val Hoski, Mike Yuhas, Patti Webb, Charlie Webb, Cora Sowa, John Simanton, Richard King, John DeRoo, Tom Gallagher, Victor Varney, Bob Leslie, Michael Smith, Bob Brewster, Ken Mosby, Ward Wells, Chase Arnold, Doug Scott.

Minutes from the September 2, 2023, meeting – Minutes were approved with corrections. Ellen will make the corrections and send to Dawn to be published on the web.

Minutes from the December 20, 2023, Emergency BOD meeting – Joe Maloney made a motion to accept the minutes as sent, Ellen seconded, motion was approved. Ellen will send the minutes to Dawn to be published.

Appointment of Assistant Treasurer – Bob Bitzer. Bob welcomed Ward Wells to the team. He has been speaking to Ward, a member from the Wisconsin Chapter. Bob then introduced Ward and had him tell us a little about himself. Ward has a financial background in IT, spent 34 years in the banking industry and has recently retired. Although not familiar with Quick Books, he is willing to learn. Bob Bitzer stated that he is looking forward to working with the team. President White also welcomed Ward to the team.

Electoral Committee – Bob Ernst. Charlie Webb, John Goodman, and Skip Waters have all reached their term limits. Scott Andes has agreed to the Vice President position and Ellen Scott and Eric Fogg have sent their resumes to run for a second term. He still needs 3 more candidates for the Board of Directors. The 2024 Election Nomination Form and Instructions can be found on the Admin Site. The application and resume should be sent to Bob Ernst.

Heritage Grants – Charlie Webb. 45 applications were received, and the deadline was January 31. The committee is in the process of reviewing them now. They have a meeting scheduled for March 5. They need volunteers to help. Val Hoski and Kevin Feeney agreed to be on the committee. They hope to have the list finalized by the Spring meeting. The target amount they are looking for is \$125,000.

NRHS News – Val Hoski. The February PDF issue is out. The March issue will be a black and white print. However, there will be a color edition online. The April issue is in development and should be complete by 3/25. If you have anything for that issue, please email to Val. The June issue will be a color PDF. She is not sure if there will be a May issue. She asked that any reps whose chapters are having a show, trip etc., to please get their flier to Val and she will see that it is included in an issue.

Conventions – John Goodman. The 2023 Florida convention was successful. He does not have a Profit and Loss statement currently. We were able to tour the Brightline facility, and then travel on Brightline from West Palm Beach to Miami and back. We had lunch in the Miami station and were able to tour the Operations Center. Our steam event was the Sugar Express. They helped by selling 30-35 tickets for the trip. Other trips were the Gold Coast Museum, TriRail, and the Flagler Museum. The President of Brightline spoke at the banquet.

The 2024 Convention will be held in Harrisburg PA from Sunday, August 25 through Saturday, August 31. The hotel is the Downtown Hilton which is 3 blocks from the Amtrak Station. The rate is \$134 per night. John asked that Bob Ernst send out a Constant Contact blast. The Harrisburg Chapter is helping with the planning of the convention.

Monday will be registration and maybe a seminar that evening.

Tuesday will be the Strasburg Railroad and the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania.

There will be a train trip that will be in first class cars (3) and include lunch. A shop tour will be available at \$25 extra.

Wednesday-East Broad Top: There will be a steam train ride and there is a trolley ride nearby. The ground is very rocky and unstable. The committee will work on language due to the limitations. This will be an all-day trip.

Thursday will be meetings: Advisory Council at 8:30, BOD at 1:00, and the Membership meeting in the evening.

Friday we will go to the Reading Station and ride the RDC Bud Car to Pottstown. There will be some rare mileage on this trip. There will be a tour of the Port Clinton shops and run byes. There be no trip on the 2102.

Saturday AM – Middletown and Hummelstown Railroad which is a short line. Lunch will be there. PM – York PA for the Northern Central Railway. There will be a run-by and the Howard Tunnel.

The convention ends upon the return to the hotel. The chapter will be opening the tower two times during the week. One will be the day of the meetings.

Val questioned that there was no mention of a banquet. It was explained that none has been planned. Instead, there will be a Meet & Greet on Monday. It will have a cash bar and some type of food, but not a meal. The decision was made to take a break from banquets due to the one last year.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Bitzer. Bowers & Company have been going through our accounting methods; membership, NEON conventions, etc. They are questioning many of our procedures. He is hoping to get that nailed down soon. He is developing the budget for 2024. What he has so far is not "etched in stone". He is monitoring all cash flow, bills are paid, and managing all funds.

President White advised that on March 6, Wednesday, there will be a "Fireside Chat" with the St. Louis Chapter. This came about through the Chapter Engagement Committee. One of the responses was a meeting with a director. Skip Waters will be the director representing the board at the meeting. He will answer questions and put a face to the NRHS. This is an experiment and will be a Zoom call at 7PM Central time. Skip will answer all the questions unless he needs help. This is a "Beta" event and only the Board is invited in a listen only capacity.

RailCamp – President White advised that the East has 23 applicants and registration ends on April 1. He is not sure how many applicants there are for the West. He is speaking with the heads of all departments. He has a list of all volunteers and is working on who does what. Victor Varney and Jon Baake advised that both their chapters have a sponsored camper.

Outstanding Railroad Preservation Award – Mike Yuhas. We received a lot of visibility from this project. We will be doing this again in 2024 working with Railway Age and Track and Structures magazines. The award was presented to Iowa Traction Railway on October 2, 2023. The team is looking for nominations.

2024 Spring Conference – Eric Fogg and Mike Yuhas. Eric welcomed everyone to Iowa. The conference will be in Cedar Rapids but a little different from past conferences. This one will have registration on Saturday, May 4. Sunday, May 5: Advisory Council and

## Board meetings

Monday, May 6: Attendees will board the deluxe motor coach for the short trip to Iowa Interstate world headquarters in Cedar Rapids, where we will learn about the history and operations of the railroad. The group will re-board the deluxe motor coach for a ride to the Dennis H. Miller Locomotive Works. After a tour of the diesel shop, delegates will board the IAIS special train, consist is expected to be two GP38-2s, a table car, a dining car, and a business car. The train will head east over the former Rock Island mainline to Silvis, Illinois. Lunch will be served on the train. Upon arrival at Silvis, the group will enjoy a brief tour of the Robert A. Pietrandrea yard and freight car repair facility. The group will then visit the Railroading Heritage of Midwest America shop at Silvis, where UP 4-6-6-4 3985 and UP 2-10-2 5511 are undergoing restoration. At the conclusion of our visit, the group will re-board the deluxe motor coach for the journey back to the conference hotel.

Victor Varney questioned chapter involvement in the conference. Since they could not get chapter involvement, the national put this meeting together. NEON will be used to purchase tickets. We will be notified when tickets are available to be purchased.

Kevin Feeney moved that we approve the conference in Cedar Rapids, seconded by Scott Andes, motion was approved.

Fall Conference – Bob Bitzer. Bob is working with the Philadelphia chapter for a conference on the East coast in the Philadelphia area. It will be October 10 – 12, 2024. He is currently working on hotels in the Philadelphia and Wilmington areas. Right now, they are considering the DoubleTree Wilmington on Concord Pike. It is 5 miles from the Amtrak station and adjacent to a shopping center. A shuttle van is available. The room rate is \$159 per night. There will be no banquet. Trips will include Woodtown Central in NJ. This will be chapter sponsored. The itinerary will be arrival on 10/10, trip on 10/11, and meetings on 10/12. A motion was made by Jon Baake, seconded by Scott Andes to approve the conference in the Philadelphia/Wilmington area, approved by the BOD.

Heritage Plaques – Walter Zullig. Walter has been working with the Donner Summit group. He is working with them on the language for the plaque and the placement of it. The cost is \$1700, and they will need some assistance with that. Walter has nothing else at this time.

## Announcements:

Attractions Brochure – Wes Ross. He has sent 700 letters to attractions to see if they want to be included in the brochure. He hopes to have the brochure out in May/June. He has received 4000 requests for brochures. Val asked if we could highlight any chapters who have museums or libraries.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ellen Scott*

Ellen Scott  
NRHS Secretary

Minutes approved May 5, 2024