

Reports for Harrisburg Convention Meetings

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Note: Several of the reports are on the same page.

Report for the *NRHS Bulletin*

As of early August 2024, the *NRHS Bulletin* remains on schedule. Two issues for 2024 have been distributed thus far and I am reviewing proofs for issue No. 3 as of the writing of this report. It is expected that issue 3 will be distributed to members in September. The initial layout work for issue 4 is complete. Several refinements are needed and it is expected that issue No. 4 will be mailed to members in November. Issues 3 and 4 of 2024 contain a lengthy oral history feature on the WW&F Railway in Maine with the excellent photography of Oren Helbok.

For 2025 we are planning some exciting content. Articles will cover the SEPTA RailWorks Project in the 1990s, Smithsonian's at the Reading & Northern, an article on restoring steam, another From the Archives Feature and more.

As always, I look to hear from our members who have an interest in writing for the *NRHS Bulletin*. I am particularly interested in article featuring content from the west and south. If you are interested in writing for the *Bulletin*, please reach out to Jeff Smith at bulletin@nrhs.com.

NARF Project Update

As many of you are aware, we discussed the application of a grant with NARF to support a photography project in partnership with Michael Froio. We received notification in early August that NARF did not fund the request for 2024. NARF did not provide any information on why funding was not granted and they did not respond to an inquiry requesting such information.

At this time, Michael is looking for other funding sources and would like to involve the *NRHS*. When other opportunities are developed we will come back to the Board as appropriate.

Thanks,
Jeff Smith

Chapter Development Report

Directors, we have another chapter request to consider! Our 3rd new chapter in less than two years. Presenting the **"Cincinnati Northern Kentucky"** Chapter.

Below, see a summary of email snippets highlighting the major points of discussion along with a "Letter of Intent" attached dated April 10th for a new chapter in the NRHS. This chapter is from the Greater Cincinnati area, specifically Ludlow, Kentucky. They have also met the requirement of at least 5 currently active national memberships in the NRHS.

In addition, the Cincinnati Chapter has been contacted and they support the formation of this new chapter. They also do not object to the proposed "Cincinnati Northern Kentucky" Chapter as the new name. Please disregard the other proposed name being offered in the Letter of Intent of April 10th,

I will present this as a motion to accept the organization's request to be a new chapter in the NRHS during the board meeting on November 29th. See below for the details leading up to now.

Sincerely,

Skip Waters
Chapter Development
NRHS

Mr. Waters,

On behalf of the [Ludlow Heritage Museum](#), we are pleased to submit this "Letter of Intent" pertaining to the creation of a new Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society. The Ludlow Heritage Museum is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that was chartered to "Preserve and protect the historic and cultural artifacts of the City of Ludlow, Kentucky."

As a steward of preservation, the Ludlow Heritage Museum is committed to educating the public about our rich railroad heritage. Examples of this would be the completed restoration of [Southern Railroad Bay Window caboose X554](#). In addition, the museum is in the process of restoring the Cincinnati Southern Railroads legacy structure known as the [Ludlow Railyard Storehouse](#). This century old structure will become the future home of the museum while also contributing to the region as an event and meeting center. Enclosed are the names and proposed titles of those members of the National Railway Historical Society and Ludlow Heritage Museum.

NRHS Member	Title	NRHS Number
Andrew Wartman	President & National Representative	73791
Mark Mitchell	Vice President/Historian	73833
Bill Stewart	Community Outreach	73828
Lise Tewes	Treasurer	73837
Ruth Bamberger	Secretary/Historian	73836

We have attached a recent publication regarding our organization and its dedication to preserving our community's rich railroad history. In terms of a name for the organization we have been at odds given the museums future regional attributes. While we would like to use, "Greater Cincinnati" National Railway Historical Society we understand that this may cause a conflict of interests. We have participated with the Cincinnati Chapter of the NRHS and are certainly willing to change the name if there is an objection. An alternative "Northern Kentucky Region" of the National Railway Historical Society would certainly be applicable should there be a conflict. We are completely open in any collaboration with the Cincinnati Chapter and have truly enjoyed working with President Andes on recent presentations.

Our reasoning for the "Greater Cincinnati" name would imply to our regions Big Four association including Southeastern Indiana, Southern Ohio, and Northern Kentucky regions. Our collection and that of the Cincinnati Division encompasses so much that we want to attain as many younger generations as possible either through educational opportunities or in-person opportunities. Our Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math Programs (STEAM) are also designed to attract regional opportunities as opposed to local. In fact, we are focusing those didactics to be Nationally available for educators across the Nation by 2025. With hands-on and in-classroom studies it's important to demonstrate how the railroads played a critical role in our community and nations development.

On behalf of the Ludlow Heritage Museum and our administration we Thank you, for the opportunity in becoming a part of the National Railway Historical Society.

Sincerely,

Andrew Wartman
319 Linden Street
Ludlow, Kentucky 41016
Direct: 859-394-4579

SUMMER 2024 Film / Photograph Committee Report

Several years ago, member Tom Coughlin with the help of a group of his students, cleaned up and digitally scanned a large group of 8mm films which had been donated to the NRHS. To hold them, he created an NRHS YouTube channel.

In response to growing requests and with the help of Assistant Webmaster Trishah, the contents of our YouTube channel are now easily accessible from the NRHS website ... you'll find the link to Our YouTube Channel listed under the Programs heading on the Society's website Home Page. Additionally, over the past few years, our small all-volunteer Committee has been able to repair, prepare and have digitally scanned 16mm films shot by railfan photographers and donated to our Society. We have begun to slowly add these to the YouTube channel as well.

Please note: The majority of what you'll find on the Channel at this time is raw footage, meaning it is un-edited, un-produced silent film! This is where you can come in – if you find a film with which you are intimately familiar with and knowledgeable about the subject matter, please write to heritagefilms@nrhs.com ... we'd love to have your help in preparing a script!

As time permits, films are reviewed, cleaned and repaired as needed and sent to Spracklen Film and Video in Arlington, Texas for professional digital scanning. Recently scanned films have included subjects such as the 1969 Golden Spike Celebration, Union Pacific U50's in Utah, Detroit and Mackinac and Indiana Railways. The process continues as volunteer time permits – reels which will be digitized soon include Richard Pratt's reel of Norfolk and Western Steam of 1957-1958 and the new Virginian "EL-C" rectifier electrics.

Have you been to the Photo Gallery section of the NRHS website recently? Almost daily, additional still images are being added. There now exceeds 2150 images of trains and streetcars ... all of which may be downloaded for personal use.

Several additional photo collections were donated during the past few months. They include photographs from the collections of Richard Freeze, Al Holtz, Gary Kazin and the family of William McChesney. Some of these images are scanned and viewable on the Photo Gallery.

As a result of the request from our former NRHS President, Al Weber, to publish photos from our collection in print form, the second in a series, compiled and written by Mitch Dakelman, has been published in the most recent NRHS Bulletin. "Ding Ding Went the Trolley", chronicles the history of streetcars, using images from the vast photo archives held by the NRHS. Coverage of streetcars includes horse drawn streetcars to the newest LRV's now being used on many of newly built or renovated streetcar lines. A third article is being planned at present.

A new inventory of films and videos will be prepared in the next few months. Many titles and new collections were added in the last few years, including Neil Moran who traveled the world and filmed steam excursions on super 8 color film, and Richard Pratt, whose 16mm reels cover N&W steam and traction in many US cities with his breathtaking moving picture cinematography, all filmed on a tripod!

Mitch would like to thank Marlin Taylor who added to this report, and of course many thanks to committee members Tom Coughlin, who recently installed a temperature and humidity monitor in Phillipsburg, and Joe Maloney. A big thank you to Tony White, John Fiorilla and to the board members of the NRHS who support the Film and Photo Heritage Project. Finally, at the NRHS Convention in Harrisburg in August 2024, one evening will be devoted to 16mm film projection, not video, by Mitch Dakelman. It will be a great show including GG1's, East Broad Top in 1954 and Anthracite Mining, presented in CRNJ's classic color / sound 1948 film, "The Big Little Railroad".

That's all folks!

Submitted by
Mitchell E. Dakelman
Director of Media Services

2024 NRHS Board and Advisory Council Report
NRHS Heritage Grants Committee – August 29, 2024

2024 award stats

- • 28 grants were awarded for a total of \$125,000 (\$1,253,000. total for the entire program)
 - • 45 applicants requested a total of \$266,449.00.
 - • The Committee requested that the 2024 NRHS Heritage Grant awards be awarded in memory of Committee member Carl Jensen. This was completed.
 - • Proposed one grant per year max. \$10,000 as the Carl Jensen Award going forward.
 - • We need to consider issuing Heritage Grants Checks via ACH rather than paper checks.
 - • Benefits:
- Timeliness
- – No lost in the mail issues
 - – Avoids service charge for stop payments due to lost paper checks.
 -

2024 NRHS Heritage Grants After Action Review, July 11, 4PM Eastern Time

Several suggestions were discussed to further streamline the evaluation process by members of the Committee. These suggestions will be incorporated into the 2025 application process. Additionally, the following matters were resolved by the committee:

- Sharing the follow-up documentation responsibility. Getting too much for chair to manage alone.
- o Ed Berntsen offered to manage the follow-up responsibilities with recipients west of Denver CO.
- o Doug Scott also agreed to assist with follow-up responsibilities.
- George Hickok (our Registrar) suggested the following to further streamline the process.
- o Suggested developing a FAQ for the Heritage Grants applicants that could be posted on the NRHS Website
- o Delete requirement to require tax returns with applications. Provide a check box on application whereby the applicant will indicate that they are

tax exempt per NRHS Heritage Grants rules. Link to 990 form to be provided by applicant. Verification will be completed by Registrar.
→ Ed Berntsen offered suggestions regarding the wording of the application which will be incorporated into the 2025 application.

Future:

Additional funding needed. Many needs
Applications will be available on the NRHS Website by mid-November.
Deadline for submissions will be January 31, 2025. Submissions via the NRHS Website

Charlie Webb, Chair
NRHS Heritage Grants Committee

Members of the Committee:

Ed Berntsen
Robert Brewster
Kevin Feeney
George Hickok
Val Hoski
Patrick Molloy
Doug Scott
Patti Webb
Walter Zullig

REPORT OF HISTORIC PLAQUE COMMITTEE

We presently are working with the sponsors to develop the exact language for the plaque to recognize Tunnel #6 at Donnor Summit. We expect that the wording will be finalized soon to enable ordering of the plaque within the next few weeks.

Several organizations recently have inquired about obtaining plaques for particular locations or structures. We have responded to these inquiries but as of this writing no specific proposals have been received. If any member becomes aware of interest for a plaque to honor a significant structure or location please send the information to me for follow up with the potential sponsor.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.,
Chair, Historic Plaque Committee

REPORT OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

During the period between the last Board of Directors meeting and August 15, 2024, no potential issues came to the attention of the IG. Accordingly, there is nothing new to report.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.,
NRHS Inspector General

August 16, 2024

To: NRHS Advisory Committee and NRHS Board of Directors
From: Mike Yuhas
Subj: Report of the NRHS Preservation Award Committee
Date: August 15, 2024

In late 2022, a small cohort of NRHS members developed the concept of an award to celebrate a common carrier railroad for its historic preservation efforts. We reasoned that there is not a compelling business case for railroads to invest in preserving their history; our award recognizes railroads that do just that.

This award honors *only* common carrier railroads (shortlines, regionals, class 1s) that have undertaken significant historic preservation projects. Unlike in the wildly successful NRHS Heritage Grants program, museums and tourist railroads are ineligible for this award. Further, there is no financial component to this award.

To increase our society's visibility in the railroad industry, the preservation award committee recruited Railway Age and Railway Track & Structures as our partners. They are fully involved; the media support they have provided has been stellar.

The 2023 inaugural award was presented to Iowa Traction, in recognition of their everyday utilization of century-old electric locomotives.

This year's award is open for nominations through the end of this month. To date, we have received very few nominations. Please visit the award page on the NRHS site (<https://nrhs.com/programs/outstanding-railroad-historic-preservation-award/>) to learn more about the program. All board members, all Advisory Council members, and all NRHS members are encouraged to nominate their favorite projects at that page. The 2024 award will be presented at the Railway Supply Institute trade show in Chicago in October.

The committee consists of NRHS members R. Victor Varney, Edward M. Berntsen, Tony White, and Mike Yuhas; plus Bill Vantuono and David Lester from Railway Age and RT&S, respectively. The committee gratefully acknowledges the support of Dawn Holmberg and Trishah Woolley for their help in publishing the nomination forms on our website, and the enthusiasm of NRHS members who submitted nominations.

Queries may be directed to mike@mikeyuhas.org.

GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT
John K. Fiorilla, General Counsel

Since the last board meeting the General Counsel has been advising management regarding legal issues and related not legal issues when presented with a request by management, directors and others who have duties they perform for the Society and for the NRHS Fund. At least once per week the GC fields such questions. In addition, the GC deals with counsel for estates of former members who are leaving donations to the Society in their wills. The GC ensures that all appropriate papers are filed and the Society eventually receives the donation they are entitled to receive. You should also note that there is no ongoing litigation for the Society or the NRHS Fund at this time.

The GC also files reports to the State of Maryland Secretary of State for both the Society and the Fund both of which are Maryland Corporations. The GC also files a report for the Fund to the State regarding its holding and solicitation of funds for the Society and the Fund.

Regarding the NRHS Fund the GC serves as GC and Corporate Secretary for the Fund and attends all meetings of the Fund and records minutes of the meetings of the Fund which are held in most cases on zoom and at least once a year in person.

Finally, every year that there is an election the GC serves as the party who receives the ballots which are mailed out by the Election Committee. This year on August 24-25 the election committee will meet at the GC's Riverton, NJ office to remove the ballots from the envelopes and make an official count of all the votes. The GC will eventually confirm the results of the election and present them to the Board. The result of the election will be announced at the Board Meeting at the convention in Harrisburg.

JKF

August 9, 2024

RailCamp Report

RailCamp 2024 was once again “sold out”. We had a record number of applicants this year. Accepted campers represent 18 states. I have also received a number of inquiries about 2025. People are finding out too late to apply for this year, but respond to my email saying they will watch the NRHS web page and apply early.

I want to thank both camp directors, Tony White and John Cox. They work year-round with our partners and make camp successful. They depend on their staff; Ellen Scott, Tim O’Malley, Dave Bateson, Regan Rickson, Alex Schwarzmüller, Mike Bergman, Mark Miller, Mike Sawyer, Chris Haaland and Ed Berntsen. By the way, these people represent seven states.

I want to acknowledge and thank the following chapters and other organizations for their support of this very important program. They are the Arkansas & Boston Mountains, Harrisburg, Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley and Washington DC Chapters along with the Massachusetts Bay Railroad Enthusiasts, North Carolina Railroad Museum, Oyster Bay Railroad Museum and Rail Passenger Car Alliance. Along with donations from individuals and the RailCamp Fund we provided assistance to 18 campers. Everyone that requested some help received it. We are proud to say that no applicant has ever been turned away due to his/her ability to pay the tuition. And, asking for some help has no bearing on their acceptance.

Our partners; Amtrak, the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, Strassburg Rail Road, Northwest Railway Museum, Tacoma Rail. Sound Transit and Oregon Rail Heritage Center, provide a wide variety of experiences for campers during the week. Each has their place in the schedule and offers a variety of options to these young rail enthusiasts. While they say they want to learn to “drive” a train, they soon learn there is a lot more to railroading. We are indebted to these partners for their continued interest and support. Another thing campers say at the close of camp is, “the best week of my life!”

This report is being written while Northwest is just getting underway so I have no financial report. We kept tuition the same for this year. Prices of everything have gone up. Housing, food, van rentals, and especially insurance have all increased. The 2025 tuition will be determined after all the bills are paid.

As I said, Northwest is going on right now, but I am confident in our leadership, partner participation and planned events saying RailCamp 2024 was another huge success.

CHAPTER ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report to the Advisory Council and Board
August 29th, 2024

Since the Spring conference, the Chapter Engagement Committee hosted its second Fireside Chat; this one with the Central Coast Chapter on July 19th. Skip Waters again graciously agreed to be the representative from the National organization. The chat featured a variety of topics and was well-received; allowing for discussion, an exchange of ideas and highlighting National programs and publications.

Apart from Elizabeth Guenzler, the chapter's National Representative, three other national representatives participated and there were 15 members in person and 21 joining via Zoom.

In other CEC business, details for the twelve unresponsive chapters were provided to Tony White and Ellen Scott and letters are in the process of being written and sent.

Respectfully submitted August 12th by Elizabeth Guenzler

2024 Summer 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

Attached are 2024 financial statements for the NRHS as of July 31, which include Statement of Activity and Statement of Financial Position. These statements have been prepared by our accountants Bowers & Company. They may be subject to adjustments prior to final acceptance.

On-going work will continue with our accountants, Bowers & Company in processing financial data from The Society's bank and investment accounts which include Wells Fargo, PNC, Blackhawk, and Schwab and through Neon which is used for our membership system and convention sales.

Financial work which is in progress:

- Developing final financial reports for the NRHS conventions held in Buena Park, CA and Miami, FL.
- Developing a budget draft for 2025 which will be reviewed and approved at the Fall Conference in Wilmington, DE.
- Once the final review of our financial records for 2023 is complete we will prepare the IRS 990 with our CPA firm Bowers & Company. Filing date is November 15, 2024.

Our new Assistant Treasurer, Ward Wells, now has full access to all of the Society's accounts and has started reviewing data in our on-line QuickBooks accounting software package.

Important reminder, the Society still needs to find an in-house volunteer bookkeeper to assist in the record keeping work required in QuickBooks Pro. If you are interested in being part of the Society's financial team please contact me. My number is 301-206-5321, email is 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.

Bob Bitzer
NRHS Treasurer

NOTE: Additional reports sent separately.

NRHS Fund Report – 2024 Convention
8/29/24

Trustees and Officers

Bob Ernst, President,

R Victor Varney, Vice Pres.

Wes Ross

Jeff Smith

Mike Walker

Bob Bitzer

Charles Webb

(Non-voting)

John Fiorilla, Secretary & General Counsel

Kevin Feeney, Comptroller

The Fund Trustees have been meeting quarterly. The last meeting of the Fund Board was held via teleconference on Friday, July 19, 2024. The next meeting of the Fund Board will be held at the Fall Conference in Wilmington, DE on Friday evening.

As of August 15, 2024, the TD Bank Checking account was closed and \$415.89 was transferred to the Wells Fargo Money Market Checking account. The Wells Fargo Advisors investment portfolio was valued on August 1, 2024, at \$1,310,211.75. The Wells Fargo Checking account was \$20,385.77.

Members of the Fund met with the Wells Fargo Advisors on July 16, 2024. The portfolio remains at a 60% Equity, 40% Fixed Income split. Based on the advice of the advisors, the Fund Board approved a move of cash available in the account. \$50,000 was placed into a 9-month CD at 5% and \$100,000 moved into the 60/40 investment portfolio. The Board also approved to adjust our equity holding an additional 10% into the “S&P 500 Sleeve”.

The 2024 Proxy Donation Ask Letter campaign brought in \$4979.00. The split was \$625.00 Film Preservation, \$1000.00 Heritage Grants, \$1425.00 RailCamp and \$1929.00 Unrestricted.

The NRHS Fund received a \$10,000 bequest from the estate of Harold C Golk on July 10, 2024. It is an unrestricted donation. Harold was a member of the Nashville Chapter who joined in 1993.

Bowers has begun the 2023 audit, and the Fund has been supplying the requested information. Discussion by the NRHS Fund Trustees during the Board meeting ensued regarding marketing techniques to obtain more donations from railroad related entities including Class 1 railroads. It was suggested that an article or articles regarding RailCamp and what is done at RailCamp to be printed in Railway Age or other similar publications. This would be a way that possible contributors could learn more about NRHS and what it does. A further discussion regarding hiring a consultant to assist in raising funds but no decision was made on this issue which the parties agreed that the NRHS Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Ernst
NRHS Fund President