

## Reports for NRHS Spring Meeting

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Reports that had not been received in time to be posted to the Admin Site will be emailed to the Directors if they are received by the secretary in time for the meeting.

## NRHS Heritage Grants Committee – Committee Report, May 5, 2024

The deadline for applications submission for 2024 was January 31, 2024. This date was selected several years ago to facilitate earlier review of applications and to make the final awards in the spring. This was done so that work that is weather and volunteer sensitive could be completed by the recipients over the summer months.

The NRHS Heritage Grants Committee received 45 applications for the 2024 program. The applications 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 was completed by April 19, 2024. 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. The total amount requested was: \$266,449.00. This is down from 2023.

In 2023 we received 50 applications and had a total requested of \$289,581.00. In 2023, 25 Awards were approved for a total of \$124,950.00 with an additional emergency grant to the Winchester Chapter in the amount of \$5000.00 for a 2023 total of \$129,950.00.

For 2024 the Heritage Grants Committee has approved a total of 28 applications for a total award of \$125,000. It should be noted that several of the recipients have been awarded less than their request. This is due to the Committee’s effort to assist with more projects.

A list of finalists is prepared and was submitted to President White for his approval.

The announcement of the successful applicants will be made at the spring conference on May 5, 2024.

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

Copies of agreements will then be sent to NRHS Treasurer Bob Bitzer for disbursement of Heritage

Grants funds (Thank you Bob). There have been requests for electronic funds transfers vs. paper checks.

Notices to recipients will be sent via email. Notices to those not selected will be sent via email with encouragement to apply again next year as appropriate.

Awardees list will be submitted to NRHS Website, the NRHS News and Facebook page.

Ed Bernstein is preparing the press release.

The Committee has requested that the 2024 NRHS Heritage Grant awards be awarded in memory of Committee member Carl Jensen.

An "After Action Review" will be completed by the committee in the summer months to review this year's program and process and to develop additional streamlining suggestions for the 2025 Heritage Grants Program. Date / Time TBD.

2025 program: It is our hope to again have the comprehensive applications available on the NRHS Website by early November. The deadline will be January 31, 2025.

After Action Review of 2023 program: This was completed by the Committee on 6/21/2023. Copy of minutes attached.

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 with 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 tracked as well.

Request for Emergency Grant: Winchester Chapter, NRHS. The Chapter has been asked to remove its 1900 I-1 B&O caboose from Clear Brooke Park in Frederick County, Virginia. This was approved the BOD meeting as noted above. Awaiting status report.

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. Doug Scott
3. Ed Berntsen
4. George Hickok
5. Bob Brewster
6. Patrick Molloy
7. Val Hoski
8. Kevin Feeney
9. Patti Webb

Anyone wishing to serve on the NRHS Heritage Grants Committee, please contact Charlie Webb (Chair) at [chairpersonnrhsgrants@yahoo.com](mailto:chairpersonnrhsgrants@yahoo.com)

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

## NRHS Heritage Grants Committee After Action Review (AAR) Proposed agenda (6-21-2023) Minutes

- Review and comments on application process and paperwork □ Suggestion by George Hickok to eliminate the need for submission of form 990 and IRS Determination letter.
- Committee agreed. Registrar will be tasked with checking each application via the IRS Website to determine if they meet the required tax exempt, non-profit requirements.
- Discussion of larger dollar limit on grants (note requires policy change). Please keep in mind that higher amounts equal fewer grants awarded  
Committee agreed that larger dollar limit requests would be considered on a case by case basis subject to funding levels.
- Fund disbursement issues, 2023 award program o Discussed the issues with several applicants failure to follow instructions regarding completion of the Agreements and accepting the Terms and Conditions. It was agreed that if time permits registrar will attempt to contact applicants with errors or missing information but is not required to do so. Failure to properly complete the application, agreement form and terms and conditions is grounds for rejection of the application.
- Minnesota Transportation Museum, 2016 award problem - Walt Zullig o Walt will reach out for an update on their progress.
- 2023 Emergency Heritage Grant Award to Winchester Chapter NRHS o Discussed emergency grant request received by and approved by the NRHS BOD at the Spring Conference in Reno / Sparks.
  - o Winchester Chapter NRHS had a caboose on public property and was evicted. NRHS supported the relocation of the caboose with a \$5000.00 emergency grant.
  - o Winchester Chapter required to meet all the requirements of any other NRHS Heritage Grants recipient. (completed – funds disbursed)
- 2024 applications to be available on the NRHS Website by early November, 2023. Closing date for applications will be 1/31/2024. Funds available have yet to be determined by the NRHS BOD and the NRHS Fund.
- Publicity: 2023 Awards announced on the NRHS Website, NRHS News, NRHS Facebook page, Trains News Wire, Railfan and Railroad magazine website.  
Special thanks to Mike Yuhas, Val Hoski and Skip Waters for the publicity efforts.

NRHS Media Services Report  
April 22, 2024

Approximately 1800 images have been posted to the NRHS Photo Gallery Site on the NRHS website. The collection is accessed by clicking the NRHS Photo Gallery image, from where a subject can be submitted. Photos include steam, diesel-electric, electric, ect., location by geographic location, freight and passenger, facilities, and date range. Photos are placed on the site on a regular basis.

A number of Walter Wieble 16mm reels have yet to be digitized. Tom Coughlan has taken the long Flying Scotsman reel and edited it into a shorter length. NJ Broadcaster Bernie Wagenblast has been hired to do the narration.

In December the film – photo committee met at the Phillipsburg Union Train Station, where the NRHS stores its film and still photos archives. Attending included Tony White, Joe Maloney, Tom Coughlan, Marlin Taylor, John Fiorilla, Aaron Coleman, and yours truly, Mitch Dakelman.

Aaron now manages the station for the Friends of the NJ Transportation Museum, who owns the building. A number of grants are required to do a full restoration. It will include a workplace, historical displays, and storage for archives. Tom was to have met with Aaron to install a temperature/humidity monitor at the lower level of the station where the photos and films are stored.

Tony gave Mitch a new laptop and scanner to continue the work of preservation of still images. The new Epson 850 allows the digitization of transparencies up to 8×10. The laptop is an HP model. I thank Tony and NRHS for acquiring this new equipment!

In mid-April a phone call came into NRHS. Tony referred the call to me as it dealt with a photographic collection. Mr. Richard Johnson of Arlington, Texas, was trying to reach an NRHS official who can handle his request. At the request of Tony, I called Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Johnson's father worked for the Frisco Railroad. During those years, 30,000 images were acquired or personally taken by Mr. Johnson's father, and his father, who also worked for the railroad.

Mr. Johnson's father has willed this collection to the NRHS. It is located in Arkansas and would have to be moved to New Jersey. I stated to Mr. Johnson I would be having a meeting with the NRHS folks and would discuss the logistics of moving this collection.

Since I plan to drive to the Spring meeting, I reached out to Mr. Yuhas and I suggested I could do a program with films from the NRHS archives. It will be run Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup>, and will be a duration of an hour, since those on the trip on Monday need to get up early. The films will depict, Waterloo, Cedar Falls and Northern, CRANDIC, and Norfolk Southern. The NS film is STEAM PEOPLE, released in 1988. It depicts the restoration of N&W 1218 and its appearance at the 1987 NRHS convention. The film, acquired through the help of Carl Jensen, is being shown in his memory. It will be a chance to see traditional 16mm film projection. The CRANDIC film is camera-original, acquired through the Dave Johnson estate, sold on eBay.

Respectively submitted.

Mitchell E. Dakelman,  
Director of NRHS Media Services.

NRHS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT  
MAY 5, 2024 CEDAR RAPIDS, IA CONFERENCE

Membership Statistics

Current membership (as of 4/24/2024)

Regular members: 3,254

Family members: 548

Student members: 93

Total membership: 3,895 (decrease of 4.74% since last report of 9/2/2023)

Membership Committee Members

Patti Webb, Chairperson

Mike Yugas

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

## 2024 NRHS Membership Awards

This year 108 pins and certificates will be awarded

23 At-Large members / 85 Chapter members

70 year award - 1

60 year awards - 8

50 year awards - 34

25 year awards - 65

I am in the process of sending them all out. Thank you to all those chapters that responded to Elizabeth Guenzler's note asking where the awards should be sent.

Doug Scott  
Membership Awards



Date: April 22, 2024.

To: NRHS Board of Directors and NRHS Advisory Council

From: Valli Hoski, Editor, NRHS News, (News@nrhs.com)

Subject: April 2024 Status Report – NRHS News.

### **NRHS News (*the membership magazine of the NRHS*)**

#### **Publication status**

Nine issues are planned for delivery 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.**

Three issues delivered as of April 22<sup>nd</sup> - February 2024 online, March 2024 mailed issue, April 2024 online.

Upcoming issues – May online, June online, July mailed issue, August issue, October 2023 issue and December 2023 mailed issue.

Special features continue to grow in the News –

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.

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.

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) .

### **NRHS Directory of Rail Attractions**

- Separate publication. Compiled by Wesley and Shirley Ross.
- The 2024 Guide will be available in late spring 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.

Respectfully submitted, Valli Hoski (email: [News@nrhs.com](mailto:News@nrhs.com))

To: NRHS Advisory Committee and NRHS Board of Directors  
From: Mike Yuhas  
Subj: Report of the NRHS Preservation Award Committee Date:  
April 24, 2024

In late 2022, a small cohort of NRHS members developed the concept of an award to recognize 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 annual award gives an attaboy to a railroad that did just that.

Unlike the long-running NRHS Heritage Grants program, museums and tourist railroads are ineligible for this award. The preservation award honors *only* common carrier railroads that have undertaken significant historic preservation projects. Additionally, there is no financial component to this award.

To increase our program's visibility into the railroad industry, we recruited *Railway Age* and *Railway Track & Structures* as our partners. The media support they have given us has been nothing short of amazing.

The inaugural award was publicized to NRHS members and *Railway Age* and RT&S readers, and we received over two dozen nominations. After lengthy deliberation, the committee unanimously decided to award the first Outstanding Railroad Historic Preservation Award to the Iowa Traction Railway, of Mason City, Iowa, in recognition of their daily use of century-old electric locomotives. *Railway Age* editor William C. Vantuono wrote, "Its rolling stock continues to function for its original purpose: moving freight to customers. All its interurban electric locomotives are more than 100 years old, and while not restored, are repaired and maintained in a manner consistent with their original construction." The award was presented by NRHS, *Railway Age* and RT&S representatives at the Railway Interchange trade show in Indianapolis, October 2, 2023. A story on the front page of the NRHS website chronicles the presentation.

The 2024 award will be opened for nominations very soon. The 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](mailto:mike@mikeyuhas.org).



Joseph C. Maloney, Jr.  
NRHS Vice President

Spring 2024 Report to NRHS BOD

April 24, 2024

1. Responded to various requests to NRHS on rail-related concerns from members and general public. Examples include:
  - a. Should NRHS start operating a heritage railroad in central Utah. (No)
  - b. Steer a late-member's widow to donate husband's extensive book collection to DeGolyer or a NRHS chapter.
  - c. History of RR cabooses.
  - d. History of which railroads took over operations of early railroads in Kansas.
2. Participated in annual NRHS Officers' meeting.
3. Attended funeral for Carl Jensen, Roanoke Chapter.
4. Backed up President White as needed.

Joseph C. Maloney, Jr.  
NRHS Vice President

cc: Al Weber  
John Fiorilla

## REPORT OF THE HISTORIC PLAQUE COMMITTEE

Since last meeting we still have but one active plaque application. The Donner Summit Historical Society has requested a plaque to be placed at Tunnel #6 built as part of the original transcontinental railroad. Our committee is in favor of this project, subject to working with the sponsors to develop the appropriate language. However, the sponsors are requesting funding assistance which I have mentioned in the past. Accordingly, the project is on hold until a decision is made as to whether NRHS can assist with the funding or another source can be found. The current cost of producing a plaque is about \$1700.

We also have heard of several other plaque suggestions but as of now nothing concrete has emerged from them. Anyone who learns of a plaque proposal can send the details and contact information to me so we can follow up on it.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.  
Chair

REPORT OF THE NRHS INSPECTOR GENERAL

The IG has worked on two matters since the last Board of Directors meeting. Both are somewhat related to the Heritage Grants Program.

The first involved the failure of the Twin Forks Chapter to report on the status of the \$4000 grant awarded several years ago for rehabilitation of a former Boston & Maine "American Flyer" coach. The Chapter's president advised that the project was delayed due to Covid and the fact that some active members have moved out of their area. The Grants Committee agreed to give the chapter another year to complete the project.

The second matter involved a \$5000 grant awarded to the Winchester Chapter on an emergency basis to relocate a former B&O Railroad caboose that was threatened with eviction. The chapter did not respond to numerous Grants Committee requests for a status report. The IG sent an email message to the chapter's officers requesting a report by a date certain or return of the \$5000 grant. The matter remains pending.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.  
NRHS Inspector General

Report to the NRHS Board of Directors  
2024 Election Update

The 2024 NRHS Election process is underway. The nomination window has closed, and the following slate of candidates will appear on the ballot.

Candidates for Vice President

Scott Andes

(Not contested)

Candidates for Director – Nine open positions

Ellen Scott, Larry Pearlman, Ken Mosby, Jon Baake, John DeRoo, Ralph R Bitzer, Thomas Gallagher, Eric Fogg, Kevin Feeney, and Michael Yuhas.

Three current Board members were ineligible to run due to term limits, John Goodman, Skip Waters and Charles Webb.

All candidates have submitted a bio for the election and the bios will be posted on the NRHS Admin site under the 2024 Election section. Candidates are listed on the Bio sheet and ballot in the order that their nomination form was received which is reflected above in the slating.

The ballot and cover letter has been sent to the printer and is scheduled to be mailed to all NRHS members in good standing about June 1<sup>st</sup>. All ballots must be returned postmarked no later than August 1, 2024, to be eligible for counting. A pre-addressed return envelope (no postage) will be included with the ballot.

The Electoral Committee will meet on the weekend of August 24, 2024, at the office of NRHS General Counsel John Fiorilla to count ballots and certify the election. The top nine vote recipients will be declared the winners of the election for the Director positions. In the event of a tie vote for the last position(s) a roll of two dice will determine the victor. The highest number wins. The dice roll will be in the order on the ballot. The dice roll will be done by one of the Electoral Committee members in attendance at the certification meeting and will be recorded by video.

Each candidate will be notified by the Electoral Committee on the results of the election. The certified election results will be made available to publish in the NRHS News and on the NRHS admin site.

The committee thanks each of the candidates for running in this election.

NRHS Electoral Committee  
Bob Ernst – Chair  
John Fiorilla – General Counsel  
Patti Webb  
Joseph Maloney, Jr.