

Meeting of the Board of Directors
 2025 Convention Meeting
 East Lansing, Michigan
 July 17, 2025

Minutes Approved October 4, 2025

President White called the meeting to order at 2:00PM. He thanked everyone for coming. He appreciates that fact that conventions are inexpensive but are well attended.

Secretary Ellen Scott took attendance.

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Job Title	Present	Absent
Tony		White	President	A	
Scott		Andes	Vice President	A	
Ellen		Scott	Secretary/Director	A	
Ralph	Robert	Bitzer	Treasurer/Director	A	
Ward		Wells	Asst. Treasurer	A	
Mike		Yuhas	Director	A	
Kevin		Feeney	Director	A	
Eric		Fogg	Director	A	
Larry		Pearlman	Director	A	
Ken		Mosby	Director	A	
Thomas		Gallagher	Director	A	
Jon		Baake	Director	A	

A = Present X = Absent

A quorum was present. See Appendix 1 for those also in attendance.

The minutes from the May 3, 2025, meeting were sent out to all BOD members. There were no changes or corrections. Eric Fogg made a motion to accept the minutes as sent out, seconded by Bob Bitzer, approved/

President White noted that in Johnson City the agenda wasn't that large. One of the items was the Chapter Engagement committee which is running smoothly. There was a proposal to the board which was accepted and spoke about at this morning's Advisory Council session to continue the process of getting At large member representation onto the Advisory Council. It is ongoing and will be brought up at the next meeting.

Chapter Development – Skip Waters. See Plenary Session for the report. At the last meeting the vote to accept Hub City as a chapter was tabled due to a conflict with the Hagerstown Chapter which is in the same vicinity. After discussion with both chapters, it

was decided the Hagerstown Chapter ok'd Hub City as a new chapter. In the future they may decide to merge. Jon Basske questioned the number of members. Skip replied that it's around 5-7. He does not have the exact numbers in front of him. Kevin Feeney moved to accept Hub City as a new chapter, seconded by Mike Yuhas. Karry Pearlman questioned having 2 chapters in the same area. Vice President Andes replied that there are two chapters in Cincinnati. Several are also in Texas and another state. The motion passed with one abstention.

Treasurer – Bob Bitzer. Reports have been prepared by Ward and Kevin and distributed to the board. A group of statements on the financial status vs. budget and a new functional income statement designed by Kevin. They provide a tremendous amount of information. Once they are approved, they will be made available to the Advisory Council. We have begun the preparation of the 2024 990's which are being prepared by Bowers & Co., our auditors. As previously stated, all Heritage Grant checks have gone out and are being cashed at a quick rate.

Budget preparation for next year has started and all committee chairs will be asked for their input. Ward will be sending out the past year's information to help with the planning. The financial stability of the Society is pretty good and that's important. We have had successful programs and conventions.

Wars Wells-If you look at the income statement, you'll notice an accrual of expenses for RailCamp. That's because RailCamp ended on June 29 and 6/30 was the end of financial reporting. Rather than show all income and no expense, we plugged in last year's expenses and that will change and be dynamic as we get the receipts. We've changed accounting methods from a non-accrual to an accrual basis this year. It will settle itself by year end. In the future it will be very accurate and comparative. Kevin will talk about the cash flow statement which is a report you have not received. He will be getting the 2024 and 2025 data to Bob and committee heads for the 2026 budget. He asked for any RailCamp and Convention receipts to be sent in as soon as possible. Kevin explained the accrual system. It wasn't done in the past. Mike brought up that NEON can integrate with Quick Books. Ward stated that we will have to investigate that further.

Larry Pearlman – Larry stated that we've had discussions in the past but have not come up with any action items. He'd like to bring them up again.

1. Chapter Engagement Survey- There is a lot of good data there. He'd like to form a small team to go over all the data and identify one thing to work on; that we can make a reasonable improvement on in a short period of time; then launch that initiative and get back and communicate with the people who completed the survey.
2. Encouraging young people to join and manage the aging out of the organization and still attract people. We've got members and chapters who have done this and managed it. Be interesting to see what other organizations have done.

To start, only take one item and he'd like to start with the membership survey. Advisory Council members can be on this committee. He's like to start with number 1. Richard Shulby stated that the Advisory Council has a committee working on At-large members.

They also have one with new youth members. Richard advised he will work with Larry on these items.

Conventions – Mike Yuhas. Thanked everyone for attending. It was a team effort. He thanked all the Ambassadors for their work this week. See the Plenary Session for more info.

Conferences – Bob Bitzer. Mike Yuhas advised that the next conference will be hosted by the Wisconsin chapter in Milwaukee. It will be October 2-4. The hotel is the Hyatt Regency. The room rate is \$189. The meeting will be held on the top floor in a room that previously was a rotating restaurant. The view is excellent. We will be visiting the Christopher Transportation in the morning and the East Troy Electric Railroad in the afternoon. Lunch will be at the Bavarian Bierhaus.

Bob stated that this is the type of conference we need other chapters to host. There are none scheduled for 2026. He requested that those in attendance go back to their chapters and ask them to sponsor meetings. We now provide a lot of support to the chapters. See Bob for more information.

NRHS Fund – Bob Ernst. A report has been sent to the Board. A statement was sent out. It shows how Grants are handled on the Fund side. The NRHS goes to the Fund for the additional funds to come up with the \$150,000. They have a Wells Fargo Advisors meeting next week. The account has been in the positive by about 3.6%. We're doing OK even in this volatile market. He is working with Dawn to get the IRA distribution and the bequest web page in place over the next few months.

The Fund also needs a comptroller. There will be an ad placed in the News. If anyone is interested, please let him know.

Jon Baake – Requested a draft agenda be sent out about 3 weeks before the meeting. He wants to have a draft so that items can be added if needed.

Jim Rowland from the Lehigh Valley Chapter asked how many excursions would be needed for a conference. Bob will discuss with him.

Val Hoski – Postage rates will be going up. She is not sure what the new rates will be, but they will be going up.

Ron Gawedzinski advised that he will be leaving the St. Louis Chapter before the end of the year. He introduced Cliff Kierstead who will be taking over as the new Advisory Council rep.

Skip Waters asked, "how does a member request financial or audit information?" The 990's are on the website and the Auditor's Letter is there also. There was a report at a previous board meeting that summarized the last 3 years and gave P&L statements. He asked if he wanted to the specifics, the actual expenses, is that available? He'd like to see that information. Bob Bitzer advised that any committee planning to do any operation can look at historical data. Also, any member of that committee. It's not available to a member as a rule. The finance organization will certainly try to provide

you with certain information. There is some general information that would be considered proprietary. He is looking for item categories not specifics. He's looking for the last 3 years, not the current.

Someone questioned where the sponsors are listed. There is a poster in the lobby showing the three sponsors. They are also listed in the "Timetable" back cover.

Tony then stated that Ron G has "busted his chops" for the past years. We will miss him at future meetings. Ron thanked Tony and then stated that the 2023 990 is not on the website.

There being no further business, Mike Yuhas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:11PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Scott

Ellen Scott
Secretary