

REPORTS FOR FALL CONFERENCE

October 4, 2025

Milwaukee, WI

RailCamp – Another successful year! We had 37 campers this year. These kids, only one girl this year, came from 22 states. Of the 37 campers, 19 received full or partial scholarships. We have our usual reserved funds and out of the blue a guy offered to send a kid to camp. 6 NRHS chapters, 2 museums, a 4H model club, RPCA and Mass REA all helped kids this year. These young people are not only getting “the best week of their life”, but they are introduced to employment opportunities beyond “driving the train”. They learn first-hand at the various museums we include the value and importance of preservation and keeping railroad history alive. My chapter has past campers serving as a museum docent, a track replacement work crew member and even one of the very first RailCamp attendees at Steamtown, now working for VT Railway, just completed his second year as a counselor. Look at the age of your membership and ask yourself, “Who will carry on?” Get your young people involved. RailCamp is a great introduction. I have brochures available. Give them out at a chapter meeting, take them to the Boy Scout office or anywhere young people gather or leave them at a local museum or library. Not all the bills have been paid. I do not have a final financial report at this time. It looks like we did go over budget a little. Fortunately, we have reserved funds for this. Over \$10,000 was used to help campers. One of the biggest expenses is renting vans. We need a sponsor for some assistance with this.

RailCamp happens thanks to the planning and execution of two great programs. None of this would be possible without the dedication and tireless work of our directors. Tony White for East and John Cox for Northwest give countless hours of their time to make it all happen. All counselors and support staff are volunteers.

I especially want to thank Tony. He has been involved with this since 2015, the same year I joined the team. He has been there planning, visiting venues, the University, restaurants, making personal contacts with key people along the way. His friendly manner and respectful pursuit of the various ideas for the East program is reflected in the cooperation he has received from everyone. He has expressed his desire to step down, work in the background, share his knowledge and be there for support for a new Director.

We are always looking for new counselors and support staff. If you are interested, please contact us.

Membership Awards

All 2025 membership Awards were sent out and none so far have been returned for bad addresses.

I need to purchase more 50 & 60 years pins to cover 2026 and beyond for a few years and also cover mailing expenses and supplies

I am asking that \$3900.00 be budgeted for Membership Awards to cover additional pins plus 2026 mailing and supplies.

Doug Scott
Membership Awards

REPORT OF HISTORIC PLAQUE COMMITTEE

Since the last meeting we have worked with several chapters and other organizations that are interested in obtaining NRHS Historic Plaques. There is nothing to report on these efforts as of this writing.

We always are open to suggestions from members for possible plaque subjects.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.
Chair—Historic Plaque Committee

REPORT OF NRHS INSPECTOR GENERAL

Since the last Board meeting, I have been working on a matter that originated with the Heritage Grants Committee. The issue involves a chapter that received a grant several years ago but appears to have done very little work on the grant project. Meanwhile they seem to have split into two sub chapters, each with a different responsibility. Aside from the obvious question of if and when they will complete the project, a side issue has popped up since the chapter has but four National members whereas our Bylaws require five members to maintain a chapter. This investigation is ongoing.

No other issues have come to the IG's attention since the last Board meeting.

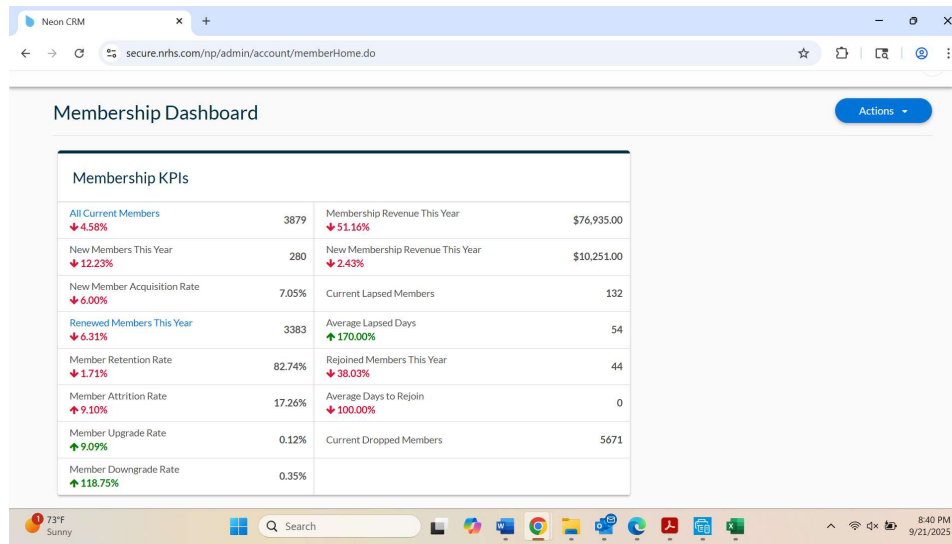
Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.,
NRHS Inspector General

NRHS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT
OCTOBER 4, 2025, MILWAUKEE, WI CONFERENCE

Membership Statistics

Total Membership as of 9/21/2025: 3,879 (decrease of 4.58% compared to 2024 memberships)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL 'secure.nrhs.com/np/admin/account/memberHome.do'. The page title is 'Membership Dashboard'. It features a table of 'Membership KPIs' with the following data:

Membership KPIs			
All Current Members	3879	Membership Revenue This Year	\$76,935.00
↓ 4.58%		↓ 51.16%	
New Members This Year	280	New Membership Revenue This Year	\$10,251.00
↓ 12.23%		↓ 2.43%	
New Member Acquisition Rate	7.05%	Current Lapsed Members	132
↓ 6.00%			
Renewed Members This Year	3383	Average Lapsed Days	54
↓ 6.31%		↑ 170.00%	
Member Retention Rate	82.74%	Rejoined Members This Year	44
↓ 1.71%		↓ 38.03%	
Member Attrition Rate	17.26%	Average Days to Rejoin	0
↑ 9.10%		↓ 100.00%	
Member Upgrade Rate	0.12%	Current Dropped Members	5671
↑ 9.09%			
Member Downgrade Rate	0.35%		
↑ 118.75%			

Membership Committee Members

Patti Webb, Chairperson
Mike Yuhas
Tony White
Becky Gerstung
Steve Siegerist

A special thank you to the Membership Committee for your continued efforts and dedication to the NRHS members. After a great deal of personal reflection, I must step down as the NRHS Membership Committee Chairperson as soon as possible.

Retaining current membership and recruiting new members is the responsibility of all NRHS members!! Membership keeps the NRHS on track for the future!

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Webb
NRHS Membership Committee Chairperson

NRHS Fund Report – 2025 Fall Conference

October 4, 2025

Trustees and Officers

Bob Ernst, President

R. Victor Varney, VP

Wes Ross

Jeff Smith

Mike Walker

Bob Bitzer

Charles Webb

(Non-voting)

John Fiorilla, Secretary & General Counsel

Kevin Feeney, Comptroller

The NRHS Fund Trustees have been meeting quarterly. The last meeting of the NRHS Fund Board was held via Zoom on Friday, July 25, 2025. The next meeting of the NRHS Fund Board will be held as a Zoom meeting on October 21, 2025.

As of September 22, 2025, the Wells Fargo Advisors investment portfolio was valued at \$1,393,765.31. The Wells Fargo Checking account was \$53,661.81.

A \$5,000 donation was received from the Lynn A. Heintz (At-Large #4473) estate.

The NRHS Fund is not anticipating another transfer to the NRHS in 2025.

The NRHS Fund will conduct year-end membership fundraising along with Giving-Tuesday emails.

The NRHS Fund is seeking a Comptroller to replace Kevin Feeney. An article will be in the next issue of the *NRHS News*.

Information for the 2024 audit is going to Bowers as requested by the auditors. The Fund has not had any updates or requests for information from Bowers.

The NRHS Fund is seeking in coordination with the NRHS a person that can approach Foundations, Trusts and Railroads for grants.

The NRHS Fund is presenting a slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees. Three Trustees terms end this year, Wes Ross, Jeff Smith and Charles Webb. The names of the candidates will be given at the BOD meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Ernst

NRHS Fund President