

## **Reports for the NRHS Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, July 17, 2025**

### **Membership Brochures.**

So far this year I have sent out more than 10,000 NRHS Membership Brochures to approximately 120 railway attractions and museums. Most of the requests for brochures were the result of Wes Ross contacting railway attractions and museums for his annual directory and at the same time asking those contacted if they would be willing to display NRHS Membership Brochures. Where yes, Wes creates a list of the attractions requesting brochures and forwards it to me. I serve as the fulfillment center packaging up and mailing out the brochures as requested. I also process requests for up to an additional 5000 brochures (in total) from chapters and others promoting the NRHS and I distribute them at conferences and conventions.

Jon Baake

### **Membership Awards**

As of 7/3/2025, all membership awards have been sent out to chapters or individuals.

Thank you to all chapters who responded to Elizabeth's request for direction as to where to send certificates and pins. Two Chapters received 10 awards each and several others also received multiple awards. I sent follow-up emails to other chapters, some responded. All those chapters that we received no response at all had their membership awards sent directly to the recipients.

I did receive back two thank you letters from At-Large members. They were surprised and pleased that our NRHS recognized them.

Doug Scott  
Membership Awards

June 15, 2025

**NRHS Heritage Grants Committee.** Report for NRHS Convention

2025 recipients have been notified.

Acceptance Agreements approved by John Fiorilla and forwarded to the treasurer for disbursement.

Those not receiving awards have been notified

Press release has been distributed

Web site list of awardees was provided to Dawn and company

Thank you messages from recipients shared with committee members

After Action Review scheduled with committee members

**Other items:**

Committee unanimously approved the request from the Waldwick Historical Society to reallocate the \$4550.00 grant approved in 2024 for exterior spot repairs to 1890 ERIE Railroad "WC" wooden Interlocking Tower. Since the award was granted the priorities of the Society changed to the immediate need to address issues with the stairs and handrails. This change was approved by President White. Amendment letter to original award notice was sent.

**Film and Slide Preservation Committee – Marlin Taylor**

At this point, there is nothing to be added to the Film and Slide Preservation Committee report submitted for the Spring Conference -- we simply continue to focus on the areas discussed in that report.

**Rail Attractions – Wes Ross**

I have nothing to report. Val has all of the information and Jon has sent out the brochures.

## **Report of the General Counsel**

Since the last Board meeting in Johnson City, the General Counsel has been busy securing insurance for both Rail Camp and the Lansing Convention. Some of the requirements for insurance by some of the providers of services were quite onerous and our insurance carriers would not cover some of these provisions. We were able to have the providers alter their requirements so that they were acceptable to our insurance carriers. We also were involved in a situation where we discovered very late in the game (a few days before the sale) that an individual was selling a film which NRHS owned and which had been loaned to a now deceased member. The most inexpensive way to recover the film once we saw it on eBay was to purchase it back. Mitch Dakelman, head of the film committee discovered the issue and was able to recover the film by purchasing it for a small fee on eBay.

General Counsel also gave advice to Skip Waters regarding issues involving a new chapter at Hagerstown Maryland. This appears to have been resolved and the issue will be discussed at the Lansing Board Meeting.

Finally, the General Counsel worked with Ed Berntsen regarding issues involving equipment owned by the Pacific Northwest Chapter. We assisted in getting them local counsel to help with resolving the issues.

June 25, 2025

John K. Fiorilla  
General Counsel

## NRHS Fund Report – 2025 Convention

July 17, 2025

### 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 NRHS Fund Trustees have been meeting quarterly. The last meeting of the NRHS Fund Board was held in person on Friday, May 2, 2025. The next meeting of the NRHS Fund Board will be held as a Zoom meeting on July 25, 2025.

As of July 1, 2025, the Wells Fargo Advisors investment portfolio was valued at \$1,329,820.00. The Wells Fargo Checking account was \$6,502.00.

The NRHS Fund attached a donation ask letter to the membership proxy notice. As of July 4, 2025, \$3,725.00 was donated by the membership through this campaign.

The NRHS Fund is seeking a Comptroller to replace Kevin Feeney. Kevin has taken on the Comptroller position in the NRHS.

The NRHS Fund completed the transfer of \$133,594.00 on June 11, 2025, for the Heritage Grants Program. This included \$50,000 from the Samuel Freeman Trust grant.

Information for the 2024 audit is going to Bowers as requested by the auditors. The engagement letter was signed and sent to Bowers on June 12, 2025. The goal is to have a completed audit and 990 form well before the November 15, 2025, deadline.

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

The NRHS Fund will present a slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees at the Fall Conference. Three Trustees terms end this year, Wes Ross, Jeff Smith and Charles Webb.

The meeting schedule for the NRHS Fund Board in the remainder of 2025 will be July 25 and October 24. All will be held at 7PM ET on Zoom. The NRHS Fund will have a report to the Board at the Fall Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Ernst

NRHS Fund President