



REPORTS FOR THE NRHS MEETINGS

Ellen Scott

September 21, 2026



Film & Slide Preservation Committee

This report pretty much is focused on the work which the NRHS Film & Slide Librarian, Mitch Dakelman, continues to do in digitally scanning slides along with adding appropriate historic and geographic documentation!

The number of digital images contained in the NRHS Photo Gallery is now approaching a total of 4500 pictures!

As a result of this great number, our NRHS collection is attracting attention as a likely source for historic rail-related photos ... which has led to the licensing of a number of photos - for a fee, of course!

As time permits, Mitch continues to review and repair motion picture films from your NRHS collection ... they are then shipped to Spracklen Film and Video in Arlington, Texas, for being digitally scanned!

On that note, Spracklen has just returned a group of 8mm and 16mm films along with a hard drive containing those digital files, the latter of which will go to Tom Coughlin, who will further process and upload the videos to the NRHS You Tube channel!

PCC Report for September 2026 NRHS Convention

The President's Conference Committee (PCC) convenes at the request of the President to discuss and develop new concepts and initiatives to help move the Society forward. Collaborative, informal PCC working sessions allow cross-functional discussions without the need for numerous separate conversations by phone or email.

The PCC has met 4 times since the last Conference: May 31, June 30, July 29, and August 25. These meetings are summarized below. The next PCC meeting is scheduled for October 14.

May 31

Discussed development of a scorecard to track various measurements of the health of the organization. Ward will create goals for the remainder of 2026. Present the scorecard to the BOD in September. Ask for input for 2027.

Future Conferences and Conventions - Bart & Sarah Jennings start for 2027 convention. Combine the Convention and Conference committee. Tony will appoint the new committee in September.

Zoom audio equipment – Investigate an Owl system for small meetings like the PCC.

Fundraising and the possibility of enlisting a fundraising leader/Development Director - Paid or volunteer position. Patricia Johnson will be contacted and asked to assist in creating this position. Need more accurate hours reporting for the NRHS 990. Larry Pearlman will provide the East Troy policy.

Succession planning for key positions and functions - Tony will get a report from the current committee chairs on their succession plan.

Editorial content - Revive the Telegraph – Chapter communication. Regular contributions from the BOD and Officers for the News and Telegraph. Use Chat GPT / Co Pilot to create content (Larry to create a teaching seminar for the PCC).

Board orientation package – to be created by the September meeting which includes: NRHS Purpose & History; Your role as a board member; By Laws and organization; Financials and Operations; Chapters; Programs Overview; Where to find stuff; Communication.

Discussed future election ballots and the possibility of moving to an online ballot system.

Scott noted the CP Huntington Chapter has publicly stated their intent to dissolve before the end of 2026. Mike to contact Chapter VP Tim Hensley to offer support from National as the chapter winds down.

Discussed need to clean up NRHS policies on the admin site and update Chapter listing on Neon (Mike & Ellen).

Membership Awards

All the 2026 Membership Awards have been sent out with almost no issues involving postal delivery that I have heard of. Not every Chapter responded to my request as to where the awards should be sent: either to a Chapter to be presented at a meeting or directly to the individual. Those Chapters that did not respond had their members receive the awards directly.

Thanks go to the Chapters that did answer my request. Thanks also to Elizabeth for sending out the request to the Chapters.

I did receive two Thank You letters from individuals and several emails plus one in-person Thank You to the NRHS.

Doug Scott
Membership Awards

REPORT TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS, NRHS

By Wesley F. Ross, NRHS Board of Directors, Emeritus, and Shirley Ross

The 2026 Edition of the ***Directory of Rail Attractions for NRHS Members*** has been sent to members and posted on the NRHS Web Site. We will begin work on the 2027 issue in early January. As we have done in the past, an invitation will be sent by U.S. Mail to each attraction that we maintain on our list. We request that the attraction respond to the invitation, either by return mail or by e-mail, and indicate if they are interested in providing a discount for NRHS members. The Directory will list their attraction, even if they do not wish to provide a discount.

We ask that all members contact their local railroad attractions and let them know that the invitations will be coming in late January or early February. If anyone knows of a new attraction or one, that may not be on our Master List, please send an e-mail to us (wesleyross@windstream.net), and we will be glad to check our list and make any additions. Our plan is for the 2027 list to be posted and distributed by June 1, 2027.

REPORT OF NRHS INSPECTOR GENERAL—Sept. 2026

I am pleased to report that there has been no need for Inspector General activity since the last Board of Directors meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Zullig Jr.
Inspector General

Report of Historic Plaque Committee—Sept. 2026

Since the last Board meeting, our committee has been reviewing four plaque applications. Two of them have been approved and the others are pending. Details of the approved plaques are set forth below.

One of the plaques will be awarded to our Roanoke Chapter for the former Virginian Railway station in Roanoke. The structure was opened in 1909, nearly destroyed by fire in 2001 and acquired by the Roanoke Chapter in 2005. It reopened in 2016 after a 15-year restoration by the Chapter. The plaque will be placed on the station building.

The second plaque is to honor Pennsylvania Railroad B4a locomotive #643, the only steam locomotive built in Altoona Shops still in operation. It was built in 1901 so is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year. It is owned and maintained by the Williams Grove Historical Steam Engine Association in Mechanicsburg, PA. The plaque will be placed either on the engine house or a separate stand.

As always, we developed the text for the plaques in consultation with the sponsoring organizations. Both approved plaques are in the manufacturing process.

Sadly one of our active members, Jack Hilborn, has passed away since our last report. We now have two vacancies and look forward to speaking with any member who might be interested in joining our committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter E. Zullig Jr., Chair

RailCamp 2026

Again this year we had two very successful RailCamp sessions. Both East and Northwest were full. We turned away as many campers as we had room to accept. The competition for spots is getting tougher each year. We may have to change the minimum age requirements to 15. Another addition to the vetting process could be a zoom meeting with prospective campers.

Our partners were terrific. They have supported our program in the past and are ready to continue. It is always interesting to find past campers either employed by a partner or volunteering their time at one of our planned visits. One of our selling points is the idea of exploring employment opportunities. While every young railfan wants to “drive” the train, they soon learn the variety of jobs available. We even had our attorney give a program this year on the possibility of representing railroads. We have added the Perryville Railroad Museum, located on the Northeast Corridor, as a stop to give campers some “action shots”. The Mt. Rainier Scenic Railroad is once again operating and has been added back into the Northwest schedule.

Railroad history and restoration are a big part of our program. Visiting established museums seeing their constant efforts in restoration of structures and equipment shows the importance of keeping the past alive for future generations. Railroading has evolved with all the technical advancements, but nothing compares to seeing a living, breathing steam engine from the past.

This program depends on our volunteers. Counselors and support staff make every day happen. From the initial selecting dates and planning right through to the last day of camp these men and women give of their time and knowledge to make this the “best week of my life!” as expressed by campers. Anyone interested in being part of this opportunity should contact the Committee. All expenses are covered.

I am sure you have all noticed the price of everything is going up. We have held the tuition for both camps for the past four years. I am constantly reminded that there is money in reserve donated with dues and other sources. We have used some of this money for scholarships provided to campers who needed some assistance. This year we also gave Chapters a discount on tuition for their sponsored campers. We want to continue to have this ability when needed. Looking to 2027 there will probably be an increase in tuition.

Membership Brochures Report

Since January I have sent out approximately 15,000 NRHS membership brochures to approximately 150 museums, RR attractions and other interested organizations. About two thirds of the requests are from leads I get from Wes Ross who contacts RR attractions and museums to determine if they would be willing to provide discounted admission to NRHS members and if they would be willing to display NRHS membership brochures. He forwards me a list of those requesting brochures and I get them out promptly. I also send out approximately 5000 brochures annually to chapters and other organizations that request them and have them available for pickup at NRHS conferences and conventions. Requests for NRHS membership brochures may be sent to jbaake@outlook.com.

Jon Baake
September 8, 2026

My web report:

Since the Spring Conference, I have been making content updates as needed to both NRHS.com and the admin site. I have also been making software updates, which all of us should be doing. In this time, there have been many, many security updates and bug fixes for all devices, and WordPress has been no exception. I try to keep the web software as up-to-date as possible.

As for the email system, Al Weber is in charge of that. No changes will be made until after the Convention so that Mike Yuhas and his team have no extra difficulties to deal with when doing their tasks.

--Dawn Holmberg
NRHS Webmaster

For NRHS 2026 Convention, Cleveland OH – September 21-26.
September 11, 2026

To: NRHS Board of Directors and NRHS Advisory Council
From: Valli Hoski, Editor, NRHS News, (News@nrhs.com)
Subject: September 2026 Status Report - NRHS News.

NRHS News (the membership magazine of the NRHS)

Publication status

Nine issues are published each year. Six issues are published so far. Three issues remain for 2026.

Issue length is 10-24 pages. Each issue is posted on NRHS Admin site.

Six issues are color PDF format, posted on NRHS admin site at <https://admin.nrhs.com>.

Three issues are black / white only, printed and mailed to members. It is also posted on the NRHS admin site.

Special issues may occasionally be published, based on NRHS activity, such as Annual Convention or Conference.

Recent improvements to the News.

Added Chapter news as last section in the issue. Chapter announcements, events, excursions, celebrations and historical memories are eagerly sought. Photos are especially appreciated.

Submissions by chapters, organizations, members are ALWAYS welcome.

For submission tips, contact Valli Hoski at news@nrhs.com.

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? Black-and-white or color image is accepted.

Submit the image (PNG or JPEG file) with caption and photographer information to News@nrhs.com.

The Final Ride – special article contributed by President Tony White, Officers and Chapters to honor and remember our members who have taken their final train ride.

Please include the member's name, NRHS activity, and obit with link (if available.)

NRHS Directory of Rail Attractions

Special publication compiled and written by Wesley and Shirley Ross.

Available as a PDF file on the public NRHS web site (<https://nrhs.com>).

Editor Closing Notes

Questions, suggestions and submissions are welcome at News@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, Associate Editor, Eileen Weber, Editorial Assistant and Alex Mayes, Content Assistant.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
September 7, 2026

General Counsel reports the following activities:

1. On several occasions provided contracts involving the licensing of photographs from the NRHS photo collection.
2. Reviewed and revised contracts which were entered into for services being provided to NRHS for the Cleveland convention.
3. Gave general legal advice on questions from President White and other officers.
4. Counted election ballots with the election committee and certified the final totals as required by the bylaws. This took place at the General Counsel's offices in Parsippany, N.J.
5. Secured insurance for RailCamp and for the Cleveland convention.
6. Provided legal advice and attended board meetings of the NRHS FUND.

John K. Fiorilla, Esq.
General Counsel