

2015 NRHS Advisory Council Fall Meeting Report

By National Representative Roberta Ballard

The 2015 Fall Advisory Council meeting was held at the Hotel Utica in Utica, NY on October 24, 2015.

The meeting was called to order at 8:36 AM by Fred Kurtz in the absence of Scott Andes. Del Kittendorf assisted Fred as necessary. Roberta Ballard took the notes in place of Fred. Fred apologized for the summer meeting minutes not being posted to the admin site. He mentioned that the sign in sheet is being passed around and be sure to sign it and check that your email address is correct.

Fred welcomed all who attended this meeting and stated that we have a good turnout.

One new appointment for National Representative - Ed Post for Central New York Chapter. Alternate National Representatives were Sheila Dorr for the Philadelphia Chapter and Hugh Harris for the Hoosierland Chapter.

Three Directors were assigned to the meeting as per protocol. They are Duane Durr, Jim Pahriss, and Wes Ross.

The minutes from the Summer Advisory Council Meeting were read by Del and passed with one correction for Charlotte Pahriss reported as belonging to the Tacoma Chapter instead of the George L. Carter Chapter.

Becky Gerstung reported on the 2015 RailCamps. Becky has a letter from Bud Thompson which she will read at the Board of Directors meeting. There is an excellent article on RailCamp in the October issue of the NRHS news. There were a total of 36 campers, 24 campers for the East Coast and 12 for the West Coast. There were campers from 16 states and 1 camper from Ontario, Canada. The cost for the 2016 RailCamp will be the same as this year at \$1,290 per camper. RailCamp East will be June 26 – July 2, 2016 in Newark, Delaware and RailCamp West will be July 31 – August 7, 2016 in Tacoma, Washington.

Sponsors, Campers and counselors are needed for next year. Application for RailCamp will be on the NRHS website on January 1, 2016.

Al Baker had made a list of ideas concerning portions of the NBM and thinks they might be a little premature for us at this time. Would like to see all the rail groups unified and working together. Ron Gawedzinski felt we should start a conversation on these points. Jon Baake feels a committee should be formed to pursue this. Carl Jensen felt we need to be more specific. Discussion to be continue at the Spring 2016 meeting.

Walter Zullig reported on the heritage grants committee. The committee is making a change to the time for grant applications. The application will be posted to the NRHS website on November 1, 2015 and the due date for applications will be March 1, 2016. There is a new email address for the grants: grants@nrhs.com. There was not a lot of money donated this year so the awards were down from previous years. Unfortunately there were very few NRHS Chapters applying for grants. Contributions to the grant program would be greatly appreciated as this is an important program.

Richard Shulby has formed a committee to formulate a Procedure Manual on railroad history consisting of Richard Shulby, Doug Scott, and possibly Nathanael Guest. They are considering parts of the NBW, and links to the National Park Service Manual and Railway Station Preservation Society. Also have a Grant Application Manual and Equipment Preservation Manual available on the NRHS website. Richard would like more committee members. If interested please contact Richard Shulby at: r.shulby@verizon.net.

The importance of having correct email addresses for both chapter representatives and chapter Electronic Business Contacts (EBCs) was stressed as well as the NRHS members. The most efficient and cost effective way of communication is by email. **This is very important.** We still have to work on communicating with those who do not have email.

Al Weber also reminded us that each chapter has a page on the NRHS website. To update chapter information send an email to: info@nrhs.com or aweber@nrhs.com

Affiliate memberships still need to be worked out and defined. Al Baker and Jon Baake made a motion to suggest to the Board of Directors that the National bylaws be amended to encourage chapter members to join the NRHS but that it not be required. Al Weber explained that a committee will look into a plan for organization membership requirements as well as individual memberships. Discussion followed. Motion passed.

Discussion on handling members without online access. We cannot continue to ignore this problem and will continue to try and find a solution. They are entitled to the same benefits as those with email. Right now we are doing our best with the members who have email but it is up to the individual member to give us a valid email address but we cannot force anyone to read their email. Hugh Harris and Skip Waters are working on this problem.

Joe Maloney explained that they have been going through the boxes of the NRHS Library and Archives and have about 37 or 38 boxes out of 98 ready to go to Maryland. They might have found a recipient for the print collection. The 8mm film project is nearing completion and will probably be finished early next year. Walter Zullig still has to move the film and slides to Phillipsburg. A short discussion followed.

Charles Williams said the next deadline for the NRHS News is November 15. There was a discussion by Al Weber of a change being made in 2016 with an extra black & white printed condensed issue being mailed, one in the spring and one in the fall. We will also have two printed Bulletins next year.

John Fiorilla spoke on the NRHS Fund explaining what it is, what it does, and why it is necessary. It is a separate 501(c)3 and its purpose is to receive and solicit funds for the NRHS and protect the funds from lawsuits. It is best for all donations to go directly to the NRHS Fund so they protected for the projects that they are intended for in temporarily restricted accounts. Discussion followed.

John Goodman spoke of a possibility of having the 2019 Convention or possibly the Spring Conference in Ogden, Utah for the UP Anniversary celebration. After some discussion Del made a motion to suggest to the Board of Directors that we are in favor of having a May 2019 Spring Conference to be held in Ogden, Utah in conjunction with the UP Anniversary. Motion passed.

Skip Waters explained the 2016 dues renewal process. The data base that we are using is Amilia. Hugh Harris is the Amilia Administrator. Volunteers are needed to help with data entry process. The cost is very good, but the program is limited. It is the best way to renew the NRHS dues. An email invite from Amilia will go out shortly. There will be 4 options to renew dues. The best and most cost efficient option is **Option #1** – verify email to set up your account and pay using Amilia. **Option #2** – pay online at nrhs.com to renew. **Option #3** – least preferred is to pay by check or money order. **Option #4** – optional for Chapter to collect NRHS dues and use the Excel spread sheet, update and email it back. Then the chapter should either send a check or pay by PayPal. Discussion followed. Hugh Harris needs more volunteers to help. Please email Hugh if you are able to help at: hughrharris@aol.com

Wes Ross had some CSX safety tapes that he passed out for those interested.

Frank Fowler passed out information for the Spring 2016 Conference on April 22 – 24, 2016. The hotel will be the Ramada Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) which is track side to the CSX mainline in Cumberland, MD.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Submitted for posting as submitted by Roberta Ballard.

Roberta has done an outstanding job of recording the meeting I sincerely thank her for her efforts.

Respectfully submitted:

Fred B. Kurtz

Advisory Council Secretary