

NRHS Advisory Council
Scranton, PA Meeting
October 13, 2018
Revised January 3, 2019

Chairman Del Kittendorf called the meeting to order at 8:39am. He requested that anyone on the phone text their name and chapter to 770-598-8958.

Present on the Phone- Jim Gattis, Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter; Ed Bernsten, Tacoma Chapter, and John DeRoo, Kansas City Chapter.

Helen Shaak will be the alternate for Fred Kurtz of the Lancaster Chapter.
New National Representative: Ken Mosby, Delaware Valley Chapter.

Directors Assigned by the Vice President: Bob Bitzer, Tony White, and Bob Ernst.

Conference Host: Tony Verbyla. Thanked everyone for coming to the conference. Tonight is the banquet with the cash bar at 7PM and the Banquet to begin at 7:30. He advised who the speakers will be and gave info on the Steamtown trip to Moscow for Sunday.

Del called for any corrections or additions to the agenda. There not being any a motion was made and passed to accept the agenda.

Minutes of the Cumberland meeting were distributed and posted on 9/28/2018. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as posted.

Remarks from the President- In the absence of the president, Joe Maloney, Vice President, read a letter from Al Weber. He welcomed new board members. He advised that the renewal process is currently going on. There is a new mailing general mailing address for the NRHS: NRHS Inc., 505 S. Lenola Road, Ste. 226, Moorestown, NJ 08057. There is also a separate post office box for membership: Attn: Membership, PO Box 13074, St. Louis, MO. He also thanked John Fiorilla and his staff for their help in the past. The 2019 convention is being worked on. We closed our office in Philadelphia.

Vice President's Report-Joe Maloney. Everything is out of Three Rivers, MA. All but two things have been delivered to the intended recipients. He has a box of items, mostly playing cards and two builder plates. He has established a committee to see where these best be placed. The elections will be discussed more at the board meeting.

NRHS Secretary-Bob Ernst. He still needs chapter information. Check the information on the admin site. Check to make sure your chapter has the correct information. Bob was asked why a by-laws change wasn't voted on at the

membership meeting for the new Affiliate Membership. The answer is that the category was already there so a by-laws change wasn't necessary. He did say that he would look into it, as he wasn't aware that it was in the minutes.

Treasure/Comptroller-Bob Bitzer. All reports approved at the last meeting are online. At this meeting the board will discuss and approve the budget for 2019. Once approved or amended it will be put online. As to financial stability, we are in good shape. It's better than it has been in several years. The audit is almost completed.

Bob Heavenrich-The audit has been received and it looks clean. The problem is with some of the footnotes that are incorrect and need to be fixed. He explained some of the metrics involved in the audit and the budget.

NRHS Fund-Wes Ross. Last night a Fund meeting was held and successful. Several problems were resolved and new policies gone over. All policies were accepted. An investment committee was appointed to determine what investments should be looked into. The fund has slightly less than \$500,000. John Fiorilla advised that \$83,000 was received from the Freeman Trust for the grants program. We can expect to receive that every 3 years. So we can divide this amount over the next three years. The money was invested yesterday.

RailCamp-Becky Gerstung. A full report will be given at the meeting this afternoon. We had full camps this year with 36 campers. We had a wait list for both of the camps. We had 15 sponsors giving full or partial scholarships to 20 of those campers. If your chapter has a camper that is interested, you don't have to sponsor that camper as we do have funds available. We had the same partners this year. Dates aren't finalized yet but they look like June 23-29 for East and July 28 – August 4 for Northwest. Tony and the director from the west will try to finalize those dates. Brochures and business cards are available to be given out.

Heritage Grants-Carl Jensen. We passed the hat at the convention and raised almost \$10,000. And now with the bequest of about \$27,000 and the budget item we can give out some larger grants. Will probably offer 5 grants this year. Haven't decided amounts yet but hopefully will be able to give some larger ones. Ron Gawedzinski stated that the St. Louis chapter has issued a challenge to their members that they will match 100% of a member's donation up to \$2,999 for donations made between September 1-December 31, 2018. They have given specific guidelines that must be followed. This may be something that other chapters want to consider.

Membership-no report. Jon Baake reported that he has brochures out on the table. Feel free to take some or put your name on the mailing list. He has nothing to report on Affiliate Membership.

Attractions List-Wes Ross. List has been completed and distributed. Has started working on next year's list. Will try to get it out before the convention next year. If your chapter has an attraction or piece of equipment available, please contact him by email or phone so he can get the information out to you.

Convention Committee-John Goodman.

2017 Nashville-made around \$22,000. 19.3% return. Very successful.

2018 Cumberland-very successful. As part of the box lunch, everyone had ice cream. A few glitches at the hotel and train, but nothing bad.

2019 Utah-May 2019. Cant' get any information from UP. He has heard no public trips even though they are bringing 2 locomotives and their fleet of 40 passenger cars. His committee is going out there in November to try to get some more information. There will be no Advisory Council or Board meetings at the convention. There will be a Membership meeting as that is required in the By-laws. Wednesday starts with the opening of the Registration Room and the Membership meeting. Thursday will ride commuter rail to Ogden. They will be preforming the coupler touching 4 times that day. Friday the 10th bus to Promontory Summit to the National Park. The park hasn't made any decision yet as to parking. There will be a re-enactment four times that day. Hopes to have all the details out by the first of the year. It's very important that you make your reservations ASAP for the hotel.

Saturday will be a charter trip on the Heber Valley Railroad. We will take 400 people. We'll have a business class car and a first class car. We'll include a box lunch and two photo run-byes. The RNLHS has agreed to buy 100 tickets so we will have 300 to sell. No price yet. Saturday night is a banquet run by the Southern Pacific Historical Society. There is no price or speaker yet. We will charter buses to get there.

2020 Michigan or California. This will be in May. It would be located in Fullerton CA. The problem is that there are no chapters in this area. Hotel Fullerton including breakfast would be \$110. Orange Empire Railroad is nearby but in the desert. They hope to have steam by next year. The Fillmore & West Railroad is about 1¾ hours from Fullerton. They have steam and this is where a lot of movies and shows are filmed. There's also Knott's Berry Farm where the NMRA has been there for a convention. They have opened early for them so John will ask for them to do that for us. Train Town at Griffith Park north of Los Angles and have steam. We would also have one day for meetings.

East Lansing MI- Johan advised there is a lot to offer here. He thanked Becky and her daughter for getting him a lot of the information. There is the steam engine 1225, which is the Polar Express, that is a little less an hour away. We could charter the Huckleberry Railroad for a trip. There is also the Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn. Little River Railroad in the Three Rivers area may also be available. Another excursion could be a boat ride on the Detroit River. Hotels in Lansing are the Radisson and the Marriott. A vote was taken that was 12 for Fullerton and 7 for Lansing.

Future Conferences-Bob Bitzer.

2019 Spring-Birmingham AL. Admin site has an advance flyer so you can make hotel (Doubletree) reservations. Further information will follow. March 21-23.

2019 Fall-Dallas TX. Nov 7-10. Still negotiating hotels. They are looking at several events for Friday, Saturday will meetings and a banquet, and possibly a Sunday trip.

2020 Spring-Cincinnati, OH. They are working on dates. It will be in conjunction with their 20th Anniversary. They are waiting for the final decision on convention dates to make a decision. They are working with CP Huntington chapter for assistance. Will have more details at Birmingham.

2020 Fall-Johnson City TN. Jim Pahriss, George L Carter Chapter, is putting together a proposal. Tentatively go to the Knoxville Locomotive Works to ride their train and tour their shops.

2121 Spring-Raleigh NC. East Carolina Chapter is putting together a proposal.

Publications:

Val Hoski-The Telegraph is mostly for leadership both chapter and national.

Charles Williams and Jeff Smith submitted their reports online.

Railroad History Procedure Manual-Richard Shulby. Richard handed out a spreadsheet listing all roundhouses. He explained the guide as to demolished roundhouses, verified roundhouses, and those that haven't been visually located. He has been using Google earth and not getting current data. He is asking members to use the spreadsheet to find and verify local roundhouses.

Nominating Committee-Scott Andes. Working with Scott on the committee are Jon Baake and Carl Jensen. The slate is: Chairman-Del Kittendorf, Vice-Chairman- Scott Andes, Secretary-Ellen Scott, and Assistant Secretary-Tony Verbyla.

New Business

- A. Amendment Number 1: Reduce the Board of Directors from 25 to 7.
Richard Shulby had some concerns and wrote to Al Weber with them. He read correspondence between them. Lengthy discussion followed. The by-law committee will be meeting November 9 in Philadelphia. If you have any questions or concerns, send them to a member of the committee. The society will need to re-district in 2021. The Council will have representation on the by-laws committee meeting. Details of location and hotels were given.
- B. Amendment Number 2: Chapter and National membership. Discussion followed regarding two classes of membership in a chapter, NRHS members and non-NRHS members. A vote was taken to refer this to the by-laws committee at their meeting. It was unanimous.

Al Baker stated that many of his chapter's members wonder why belong to the NRHS. Al put together an article (on the admin site) stating the value of belonging.

C. Election of Officers-Scott Andes

Scott opened the floor for additional candidates. Carl Jensen moved to close the ballot. Seconded by Helen Shaak. Passed. Scott asked that since there is only one candidate per office that the slate is voted with one vote. John Simanton made the motion, seconded by Helen Shaak. The motion passed.

Open Microphone:

Wes Ross- advised everyone aware of the Combined Federal Campaign. All federal employees can use this to donate to the NRHS. It's available to federal and military employees and retirees. They can now sign up online. The campaign ends in January.

Jim Gettis, Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter, is interested to archiving and indexing the chapter's newsletters. He asked if the national could help his chapter. Val Hoski suggested that he contact the state Library Association. They can tell him local schools that can help with that.

Del mentioned that chapters might think about the Heritage Grants challenge

Tony recommended lunch locations in addition to the facilities in the hotel.

Recommendations to the Board: Concerns about the reduction in the number of board members, and a concern about the conflict of local and national members in a chapter.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:54.

Respectively submitted,
Ellen Scott