

NRHS Advisory Council Meeting
Fall Conference
Dallas, TX
November 9, 2019

Chairman Del Kittendorf called the meeting to order at 8:36am.

Dell welcomed everyone and asked those on the phone to please text their attendance. He introduced Skip Waters, the local chapter host. He explained what the details for the rest of the day are and the trip planned for Sunday.

Alternates: Helen Shaak, Lancaster Chapter, Bob Brewster, Intermountain Chapter

Phone attendees: Bob Heavenrich, Wes & Shirley Ross, Bob Bitzer, Brandon Brown-
Washington DC Chapter, Valli Hoski- North Texas Chapter

Directors assigned to the meeting by the President: Tony White, Roberta Ballard,
Harold Shaak.

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes from the Birmingham meeting were approved as posted on the Admin site.

Officer and Committee Reports:

President's Report. No report.

Vice President's Report. Joe Maloney discussed the trip to the DeGolyer Library. He presented 3 anniversary certificates to the North Star Chapter, West Jersey Chapter, and the Clinchfield Chapter.

He was able to secure some funding to start digitizing the 16mm film that was in Phillipsburg.

He is starting to work on the 2020 elections. He has sent information to Valli Hoski for publication in the News and Telegraph. Nominations open on January 1, 2020. The deadline for nominations is March 31.

A question was asked about sending chapter materials to the DeGolyer Library. Al Weber stated that they are working on a procedure with the Library on sending chapter material to them.

NRHS Secretary. Bob Ernst. Has taken on the role of NRHS Fund President. He will remain as secretary until the Fullerton meeting. He will get a description of his duties to Val Hoski for publication.

NRHS Fund. Bob Ernst. There is a new group of trustees. All accounts are in good order. All that needs to be done is change signatures over. The focus will be for fund

raising. They have set up with Amazon Smile for donations. Ron Gawedzinski asked how much is in the account. Bob advised he doesn't have the current amount on hand. All fund policies will be on the Admin site.

Treasurer/Comptroller. Bob Bitzer and Bob Heavenrich. Bob Bitzer - a 2020 budget has been made up and will be reviewed at the Board meeting this afternoon. Financial health of the Society is very good. We had a large sum of money donated which has helped the finances. The 990's for the Fund and NRHS are being worked on. The audit is being worked on but taking longer than he thought. However, it is a "clean" which means we have met all the requirements.

Bob Heavenrich-Our financial condition is the best that it's been in years. He would like to thank Carol Ann, Steve and Hugh because without their help, it would be a nightmare for Bob and Bob. Bob H covered income and expenditures to date.

RailCamp. Becky Gerstung. Report online. The dates for West look to be July 26-August 2. The dates for East are still being worked out.

Heritage Grants. Charles Webb. Report online. Grant applications are online. The deadline is January 31. There was a discussion regarding amount of grant money available. It was decided that the Grant committee would meet to further discuss the amount of money allocated.

Membership. Hugh Harris. Report is online. Still working to get the renewal system to work better. 4800 members will be getting letter in the next few days. Trying to improve the accuracy of our member list.

Affiliate Membership-Al Weber. Only one member so far. There is a brochure online. We need a committee to work on their membership. Discussion followed regarding the types of membership.

Brochures. Jon Baake. Report online. We gained 800 members but lost 600. NEON will ask new members where they learned about the NRHS.

Awards. Doug Scott. Nothing new to report.

Attractions. Wes Ross. The Combined Federal Campaign program is currently in effect. This is open to all federal employees to make donations to charitable organizations. The 2019 Discount List is on the website now. He is working on the 2020 list which he hopes to have completed by May 2020.

Convention Committee. John Goodman.

2018 Cumberland, MD, August 2018. Very good results.

2019 Northern Utah, May 2019. Many challenges with this convention. John went over the details of those issues.

2020 Fullerton, CA, June 8-13, Knotts Berry Farm, Buena Park, CA. John covered the details of the convention. The hotel at Knotts Berry Farm reservations will begin on December 15. The convention information should be online by February 1.

2021 Portland, ME. Details are still being worked on. Other suggestions are Boston, MA, Milwaukee, WI, and New Orleans.

2022 South Florida. Virgin Trains USA. Details being worked on.

Future Conferences. Bob Bitzer.

Fall 2019 is being conducted now in Dallas. He thanks Skip and the North Texas Chapter for their work on this conference.

Spring 2020. West Chester, OH, March 26-29. Flyers were handed out and information is also online. Scott Andes went over the details.

Fall 2020. Johnson City, TN, October 15-18. Jim Pahriss went over the details.

Spring 2021. Raleigh, NC, April 16-18. Victor Varney went over dates and details.

Fall 2021. Ronkonkoma, NY bid to be approved at the Board meeting.

Publications. Val Hoski. Reports for Telegraph and News online.

Bulletin-Jeff Smith. Report posted online.

Film Library. Marlon Taylor. Mitch Dackelman is still the digital person and reviews all the film and makes deletions and corrections as necessary. Tom Coughlin is the technical person.

Facebook. Skip Waters. We have 4000 followers and between 400-1000 views per day.

Website. Dawn Holmberg. New website went live in August. She is still training but has gotten through all the emails she has received. Please check your info to make sure correct.

Railroad History Procedure Manual-Richard Shulby. Roundhouse survey has corrections that he has sent to Dawn to update. He asked for the chapters to help with the verification of the roundhouses. He is working on the Historic Railroad Structure Manual and trying to get that working.

By-Laws Committee. John Fiorilla, Joe Maloney. John discussed the work done regarding the Utah convention and getting refunds from the hotel and railroad. The rationale for changing the by-laws due to apportionment, lack of people to step up to hold board positions, and those current members reaching their term limits. Proposed changes, revisions, and explanation of changes are posted online. Joe explained the timeline for changes and the rationale for the change.

Due to lack of time remaining, Del asked conversions be limited. Gulf Coast Chapter advised that they are for motions 1,2,3,8,9,10,11,12. Some discussion followed. Del asked for a vote on motion 3 from the council. The vote was 10-7. More discussion followed. Del polled the members on the phone. With the addition of the phone members, the vote is an even. The tie will stay the way it is.

Gulf Coast Chapter questioned whether or not they can share their membership with an affiliate organization. He also asked about non-chapter members. Answers were given.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Scott