

## **2016 NRHS Advisory Council Spring Meeting Minutes - Draft**

The 2016 Spring Advisory Council meeting was held at the Ramada Inn, Cumberland, MD on Saturday April 23, 2016.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 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. Del passed around the sign in sheets. Fred asked all to be sure to sign it and check that their email address is correct by putting a check mark next to it.

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

One new appointment for National Representative – Valli Hoski for North Texas Chapter. Alternate National Representatives are Tim Hensley for Collis P. Huntington Chapter, Bill Beagen for George L. Carter Chapter, and Steve Siegerist for the St. Louis Chapter.

Three Directors were assigned to the meeting as per protocol. They are Mark Eyer, Harold Shaak, and Larry Dyer.

The minutes from the Fall Advisory Council Meeting were read by Del and approved with two corrections to change NBW to NBM and Richard Shulby email to rbshulby@verizon.net.

Chair Pro Tempore Scott Andes who was phone conferencing thanked all for attending and thanked Fred Kurtz and Roberta Ballard for filling in.

Fred Kurtz announced that he would not be running for reelection as AC Secretary for health reasons. Nominations for Chair and Secretary are open for Election at the Fall Conference. A motion was made by Fred Post from the Central New York Chapter to form a nominating committee. Motion passed. Del Kittendorf volunteered to chair the committee and Roberta Ballard volunteered to assist. Scott Andes said he will run again and Roberta had one nomination - Ellen Scott from the Cape Cod Chapter to run for Secretary. Del asked that anyone interested in running please send an email to him at: delk98@bellsouth.net

Skip Waters reported that the dues renewal process through Amilia is not perfect, but it is basic and very affordable. Hugh Harris reported that the system is functional and we have 6,512 accounts to date down from 7,616. A 14% drop from 2015. If you have activated your Amilia account and change your email address, you must sign into your account and change it yourself as that is used for your login. If you have any deceased members please send an email to: [info@nrhs.com](mailto:info@nrhs.com). Membership reports to chapters will go out soon from Joe Maloney (hopefully by May 10).

Becky Gerstung reported that both Railcamp East and Northwest are full, 36 campers from 13 different states. They will be using the same housing as last year. 15 campers will have full scholarships. They have 3 new counselors this year.

Richard Shulby provided a spreadsheet his committee came up with for the NRHS Railway Preservation Manual Implementation Plan. This will be posted on the admin site and he would like volunteers to help. Anyone interested please contact him at: rbshulby@verizon.net

There was a discussion on what to do about members that do not have email or internet. A motion was made by John Sweigart to advise the BOD to investigate a fee to charge for members for print copies of NRHS publications. Motion passed.

John Goodman reported on the Denver Convention. Ticket sales are going well. Becky made a motion to have an Advisory Council meeting in Denver. Motion passed.

The Bylaws Committee submitted their report. This report is just putting forward ideas and will not be voted on at this time. A discussion followed. It was recommended that the current structure needs to settle before making a change.

Jon Baake made a motion that the Advisory Council recommends that the definition of a Chapter be returned to the bylaws committee for further analysis and recommendation as to what is a chapter that the NRHS can and will enforce. Motion passed.

Carl Jensen made a motion to the bylaws committee that the idea of an affiliate group is one that we would endorse pending being further defined and implemented.

Bob Ernst would like anyone that has any ideas to please send them in within the next 30 days to be discussed in Denver.

Sheila Dorr stated that the Philadelphia Chapter still mails out their newsletter. She also thinks we need to explore why some of the chapter reps don't come to these meetings and if there is anything we can do about it.

Jon Baake thinks we need to work on finding new members. He also thinks we should try to find out why chapter reps don't attend these meetings.

Valli Hoski thinks chapters should develop a relationship with their local library.

Al Baker announced that the Fall Conference will be in Portland, Oregon, on October 14 & 15, 2015. Information has been posted on the NRHS admin site. Jon Baake made a motion that we have an Advisory Council meeting in Portland. Motion passed.

Bob Bitzer would like chapters to step up and sponsor 2017 Spring and Fall conferences and beyond.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Ballard  
Recording Secretary