

## Spring 2017 NRHS Advisory Council Meeting Report Claymont, DE

The Spring 2017 NRHS Advisory Council meeting was held at the Crown Plaza Wilmington North in Claymont, DE on Saturday April 1, 2017.

The meeting was called to order at 8:09AM by Chairman Del Kittendorf.

Advisory Council Chairman Del welcomed all in attendance. He then introduced Steve Barry of the Wilmington Chapter, our host for this meeting.

Steve thanked all for coming to Claymont and thanked those who helped.

Roll Call - Bob Ernst passed out the sign in sheets.

- a. Alternate Advisory Council members were Helen Shaak for the Lancaster Chapter and Roberta Ballard for the Cape Cod Chapter.
- b. There were several National Representatives on the phone conferencing.
- c. The agenda was approved as posted.

The minutes from the Fall 2016 Advisory Council Meeting were approved with no corrections.

NRHS President, Al Weber thanked all for coming to the meeting.

Vice President Joe Maloney reported on the membership awards, library moves, film digitizing, and general staff works. His report was previously posted to the NRHS admin site.

Treasurer Bob Bitzer reported that the NRHS is in the black and that we should encourage members to renew. We are 400 members short of the budget for membership.

Comptroller Bob Heavenrich will have a financial report for the Board of Directors in the afternoon. We are now using quick books as our accounting program. He also reported that the NRHS Fund is moving ahead with it's fundraising efforts.

Al Weber has sent out 2<sup>nd</sup> notices to members that have not renewed. There are delays in manual posting do to the fact that everything is handled by volunteers and they are working very hard to keep up. Please email Joe Maloney [vp@nrhs.com](mailto:vp@nrhs.com) for a list of your chapter renewals. There is **POWER** in numbers and we want to keep strong for our cause. He also reported that we are moving away from Amilia.

Jon Baake distributed the new NRHS brochures. He has extras for anyone that would like some. There is one typo. Ron Gawedzinski had a couple of comments on the brochures and those will be looked into.

Becky Gerstung reported that they have 25 applications for Railcamp East and 13 for the North West Railcamp. They will be creating a wait list. She also reported that Railcamp is doing well financially. They also are in need of counselors. See her for requirements. Railcamp east will be June 25 – July 1. North West will be July 30 – August 6.

John Goodman stated that in February there were just under 200 registrants. The 2017 Convention will be held in Nashville, TN, June 20-24, 2017.

Jon Baake spoke about the Friday convention activities conflicting with the various meetings. John Goodman explained that this was due to the shorter conventions.

Bob Bitzer said we need chapters to host future conferences. The 2017 Fall conference will be in Kansas City, MO October 19-21. There is a possible Sunday event. The conference is be held at the Westin Kansas City Hotel – downtown. Details will be available at the convention.

Richard Shulby reported that he and Doug Scott are working on the Railroad History Procedure Manual. He would still like more volunteers to help with the project. He did not have any luck with File Maker Pro 5 as the program is not compatible with the newer programs. He would welcome anyone who is interested in this project and Railroad history to help with the project. His contact email is [rbshulby@verizon.net](mailto:rbshulby@verizon.net).

Carl Jensen reported on the 2017 Grants. Unfortunately, there is only \$20,000 available. Grants come from donations and not NRHS dues. They received 34 applications but were only able to give 8 grants.

Wes Ross explained the Combined Federal Fund Campaign and encouraged members to take advantage of it.

Del mentioned that Roberta Ballard was taking the meeting minutes in place of AC Secretary Ellen Scott who had made vacation plans long before the date of this meeting had been decided.

There was one piece of old business to discuss and that is what the definition of a chapter should be. There was a lengthy discussion of the Chapter Definition Proposal that had been posted to the admin site and passed out to all at this meeting. 29 of the National Representatives present were in favor of passing this proposal along to the Board as a guideline for future bylaw changes. Only one person was opposed. Richard Shulby of the Piedmont Carolinas Chapter suggested that if the Board forms a committee to discuss this proposal it should include advisory council members. Jon Baake, Ron Gawedzinski, Carl Jensen, and Valli Hoski volunteered to serve on that committee. (*Accepted by the Board*)

The Advisory Council elected Scott Andes to serve as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Council to serve the same term as the chairman.

There was a discussion about a letter received from Stephen L. Wasby about forming a Publications Committee. Some felt that it was needed but had reservations about forming such a committee fearing that it might interfere with deadlines for the publications. No action was taken at this time.

Wes Ross is getting the 2017 member discount list together and it will be published in the June NRHS news. They have more attractions than in past years. Jon Baake felt these attractions are good candidates for affiliate membership and distributing NRHS flyers.

Several members of various chapters spoke about their membership problems. Al Weber spoke about a small chapter that promoted itself and grew its membership. He explained that we have many small chapters and that is okay. We are an organization of both large and small chapters.

Valli Hoski reminded us that Libraries welcome displays and presentations and are a good way to promote membership for both chapters and the NRHS.

A suggestion was made that we sell ads in the NRHS News but it was explained that selling ads would be an accounting nightmare. Al Weber explained that we do not sell ads but we do have sponsors and publish their names. Trains magazine would also like articles from the NRHS.

Steve Barry thanked the Baltimore Chapter for their donation of \$1,000 to the New Mexico Steam Engine.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Ballard  
Acting Secretary