

NRHS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

St. Louis, MO.

June 3, 2018

Advisory Council Chairman Del Kittendorf called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM. He went over some general housekeeping items. He also mentioned that the Advisory Council Secretary Ellen Scott will not be here and Roberta Ballard will be taking the meeting minutes in her absence.

Joe Maloney announced that Marge Fiorilla who represents the North Florida Chapter is in the hospital and doing well. He then passed around a get well card to send to her.

Del announced alternates for this meeting. They are: Helen Shaak for the Lancaster Chapter and Roberta Ballard for the Cape Cod Chapter.

Vice President Joe Maloney assigned the following directors to the meeting: Tony White, Jim Pahriss, and Walter Zullig.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and a motion was made and approved to accept.

A motion was made and approved to accept the Kansas City, MO. meeting minutes with corrections to spelling as noted.

Report from the Chair – Del asked for 3 volunteers for a nominating committee with Scott Andes to chair the committee. Jon Baake and Carl Jensen volunteered to serve on the committee. Advisory Council positions that are up for elections in the fall are: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary.

Officer and Committee Reports – Most of the reports are posted on-line. <https://admin.nrhs.com/>

Al Weber, President – Welcomed all to St Louis. He encouraged those who have not done so to explore the hotel as it is worth exploring. Ballots for the upcoming election have been mailed and there is a line for write-ins. He thanked all for attending.

Joe Maloney, Vice President – Report is on-line and there are no changes to that report.

NRHS Secretary – Bob Ernst still needs contact information from most of the chapters – such as mailing address, phone number, email address, officers, and national representative. Please send to: secretary@nrhs.com. We need to get NEON set up with the correct information and this will result in better communication with the chapters.

Treasurer/Comptroller - Bob Bitzer explained that a financial report has been sent to the BOD for approval and then will be posted. Bob Heavenrich reminded that there are IRS filing changes that affect all non-profits. Carol Ann Cornelius is now handling all accounts payables and dues are going to Steve Siegerist for deposit. Audit is in process.

NRHS Fund: Wes Weis – Money is being invested wisely and they are getting a 4.11% return.

RailCamp - Tony White gave a current status report on the 2018 RailCamps. This year they are celebrating 20 years of RailCamp. Carl Jensen read a statement from Becky Gerstung.

Heritage Grants, Carl Jensen – We really do not have enough money being donated to the Heritage Grants Program. We only had \$21,000 donated this year. Walter Zullig reported that 8 grants were awarded. Unfortunately only one NRHS Chapter applied for a grant this year. Del will recommend to the Board at the meeting this afternoon that the Board give further advice and consideration to the grants program and how it should proceed.

Membership: Hugh Harris – Full report has been posted on-line.

Affiliate Membership & Current Status Brochures - Jon Baake – Report posted on-line. John has brochures on the table and about 60 organizations have requested our brochures. He is hoping that will result in getting new members. New members are applying on-line and Jon would like to see checkboxes asking how they learned about the NRHS. He would also like to see a more formal program of obtaining Affiliate Memberships. Also, he has been working with Al Weber to get a survey sent out.

Attractions List: Wes Ross – The discount list was in the last NRHS News and is available on the NRHS website. He also thanked his wife Shirley for all the extra help she has given him due to his being ill. Over 150 attractions are on the list.

Convention Committee: John Goodman – He feels that we will have a very successful convention in Cumberland this summer. The convention hotel sold out very quick due to the excellent rate we received. All busing will be from the Ramada for convention events.

2019 Convention will be Salt Lake – Ogden and will be a joint convention with 4 different groups and each group will have individual plans.

Al Weber mentioned that the present situation with Amtrak's policy on private cars is affecting future plans for rail trips and encourages all to write letters. Go to RPCA.com for example letters. This is very important! There is power in numbers.

Future Conferences – Bob Bitzer – Thanked the St. Louis Chapter for hosting this conference and the R&LHS for inviting us to participate in their convention.

Fall 2018 – Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter, Anthony Verbyla – Scranton PA October 11-14. The conference will be hosted at the Lackawanna Radisson Hotel. This is in conjunction with the chapter's 45th anniversary. There are registration forms on the table and they should be on the website in the very near future.

Fall 2019 will be in Dallas, Texas the 2nd week in November. Skip Waters spoke briefly on this conference.

Publications: Val Hoski, Charles Williams and Jeff Smith – Reports are on-line.

Railroad History Procedure Manual: Richard Shulby – Nothing new to report.

Board Chapter Definition Committee: Jim Pahriss – Article X Chapters – Section 1 – recommended change posted on-line. Discussion followed. It was decided that the AC will recommend to the Board to change the wording in subsection (a) and (b) to – indicate chapter affiliation when paying their Society dues and strike out pay their Society dues through the Chapter.

Old Business: Jon Baake would like the Board to decide if a Chapter member must be a National member. Del will recommend this to the Board.

New Business: Jon Baake letter from Davis & Elkins College re: Railway Heritage Tourism program handouts that they would like to provide to NRHS RailCampers. Discussion followed. A vote was taken and it was decided not to distribute the handouts at this time.

E-mails have been going out saying it is from NRHS officers or Chapter offices asking for money. The NRHS will send out a warning about this.

Open Microphone: Tom Marsh from the Golf Coast Chapter was asked by his chapter to encourage the NRHS to do more to promote membership. They feel the NRHS needs to do something to help Chapters keep the members they have and get new members. Discussion followed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Roberta Ballard