

NRHS Advisory Council
Birmingham, AL Meeting
March 23, 2019

Chairman Del Kittendorf called the Joint Meeting to order at 8:22AM.

Present on the phone: Jim Gattis, Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter; Tim Hensley, Collis P. Huntington Chapter; Susan James, Cumberland Valley Chapter; Valli Hoski, North Texas Chapter; Al Baker, Pacific Northwest Chapter; Adam Boward, Twin Forks Chapter; David Foster, District 4 Director; Hugh Harris, Marlon Taylor, and Wayne James.

Del introduced our local host, Mike Walker.

Directors assigned to the meeting by the President: Steve Barry, Tony White, Jack Hillborn.

Officer and Committee Reports-

President's Report, Al Weber-Not a very good turnout at the meeting. Need people to come to the meetings.

We currently have a new website under construction and will be available very soon. In the mean time you can access the site to see what it looks like: webdesignbytrishah.com/nrhs/. The password is: open. This does NOT replace the current website until sometime in June. It is running parallel to the current website.

We need more new members. Try to give out brochures and applications when at events. Al introduced John Baake as the Membership Chair and he will be working with Hugh Harris.

Vice Presidents Report, Joe Maloney-The report is online. Joe stated that he still is looking for 2 volunteers from the Advisory Council for the Membership Survey. John Baake and Jerry Hardwich are currently working on the questionnaire. The additional members will work with them to define what we would look like. Richard Shulby and Scott Andes volunteered.

Secretary's Report, Bob Ernst- The report is online. He is still in need of Chapter information so that the new website will have the correct and updated information.

Treasurer's Report, Bob Bitzer & Bob Heavenrich-The report has to be approved by the Board before it can be distributed. The 2017 audited reports are online. The 2018 audit information is being gathered for that process to begin. Financially the Society is strong. We are in good shape. Expenses are under control and in line with the budget.

Bob Heavenrich-for the first time the Fund had to do a full 990. That's 40 pages instead of 12. When we move money between the Fund and the NRHS, we have to report it to the IRS. This happened for the first time in 2017.

Awards, Doug Scott-Doug thanked Joe and Patty for their hospitality when the supplies were transferred. Pins and certificates are in the process of being sent out.

RailCamp, Becky Gerstung- The report is online. The only change is the number of applicants. There are currently 27 applicants for East and 9 for Northwest.

Heritage Grants, Bob Cornwright-There were 38 applications for grants for a total of about \$217,000. We were able to give out 9 awards totaling \$48,000. The names will be posted on the website. Those recipients were: \$8,000 to the Oregon Heritage Foundation, Portland, OR; \$8,000 to the Roanoke Chapter of the NRHS in Roanoke, VA; \$3,500 to the North Carolina Railway Museum in New Hall, NC.; \$8,000 To the Pacific Railroad Preservation Society in Portland, OR.; \$2,000 to the New England Steam Corporation in Winterport, ME.; \$5,000 to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum in Duluth, MN; \$8,000 to

the Nashville Steam Preservation Society in Nashville, TN; \$2,500 to the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum in Nevada City, CA; and \$3,000 to the Placerville & Sacramento, CA.

Membership, Hugh Harris- The report is online. Right now, we are up a few hundred from where we were in 2018. We currently have around 5400 members. There are about 1000 members who have not renewed yet. Numbers are shifting daily.

Affiliate Membership and Brochure Status, John Baake-Brochures need to be reprinted due to the change in mailing address. He is currently putting labels over the old address until the new ones are printed. We need to use NEON-CRM to ascertain how to get new members. Have new members fill out a questionnaire advising how they found out about us. He is looking for a few members to help with this project. Del Kittendorf, Bob Ernst, and Tony White volunteered.

The Affiliate Handbook-Draft-is online. Del is looking for assistance in making this a viable program for the NRHS.

Attractions List, Wes Ross-Del gave the report for Wes who couldn't make the meeting. The list is being prepared and he hopes to have it ready for distribution in May. John Baake has agreed to send brochures to those on the list so they will have them.

Convention Committee, John Goodman-360 have registered for Utah. Many people failed to read the disclaimer. There is rough terrain, long walks, standing for long periods of time and no places to sit. This will be a difficult convention for anyone with any type of mobility issues. The itinerary is: Wednesday morning-Light Rail trip, walking a little over a half block to the station. The afternoon will be seminars and the Membership meeting. Thursday trip to Ogden for the touching of the couplers of the Big Boy and 844. Taking the Light Rail to Salt Lake Central and changing to the commuter rail to Ogden. There will be guides along the way to no one gets lost. In Ogden you will walk to the Union Pacific Station. The touching of the coupler ceremony will only be done once. It will take place at 10:30. There will be some bleacher seats and large TV monitors so you should be able to see. The locomotives will then be moved to the station. They will be on display until 4:30. With the pass, you can go back to Salt Lake City at any time. He and President Weber will be out there early to make sure the times they have are correct and to be able to make any adjustments necessary. Friday, 8 buses will go to Promontory. The departure time may change to make sure we get there on time. Currently we are leaving at 9AM. The building will be closed. There will be food trucks and porta-johns. There will also be music. Many local and national officials will be present. There is no seating for the general public. Saturday is the trip on the Heber Valley Railroad. This trip is sold out. For anyone who feels they cannot make it, there is a "hardship refund" that will be made available. For more info about what is going on in Ogden/Salt Lake City visit www.spike150.org.

2020 Fullerton CA, June 9-13, Tuesday-Saturday, Knotts Berry Farm Hotel, Buena Park, CA. Rooms are \$119 per night. There is a \$5 per day for parking. The park admission is discounted to \$38. There are many restaurants and shops in the area. Itinerary so far is Wednesday taking a bus to Orange Empire. Thursday is Fillmore & Western. Trying to make arrangements to go to the Rail Giant Museum. Advisory Council and Board meetings will be held on Friday with a banquet that evening.

2021 Portland ME. Headquarter in Portland. Amtrak does go to Portland. John will look into it.

2021 West Palm, FL-Del replied that this should be postponed until 2022. Orlando and Tampa won't happen until 2022. 2022 is looking to be more viable.

Future Conferences, Bob Bitzer-He thanked the local host, Mike Walker and the chapter for hosting the conference.

Fall 2019, Dallas, TX, Nov 7-10 Skip Waters. A flyer was handed out with the list of events while there. We will be staying at the Magnolia Dallas Park Cities Hotel. The room rate is \$149 per night. The Light Rail is right there by the hotel. There are restaurants nearby also. You can take the light rail to the hotel from the airport. Amtrak is also accessible to the hotel. Mockingbird Station is in walking distance housing movie theatres, shopping, etc. Pricing for the events is still being determined. Skip described what each day's events will include.

Spring 2020, West Chester, OH, March 26-29, Scott Andes. Celebrating the chapter's 50th Anniversary. The hotel is the Cincinnati Marriott North, and a preliminary room cost of \$109-\$119. Free parking. The hotel is surrounded by hotels and attractions.

Fall 2020, G.L. Carter Chapter (Johnson City, TN), October 15-18, Jim Pahr. Arrive on 10/15. Friday, 10/16 will be a trip to the Knoxville Locomotive Works, a ride on the Rio Rambler, and a riverboat ride. Saturday 10/17 will be meetings and a banquet. Lodging will be at the East Tennessee Carnegie Hotel. Spring 2021, Raleigh, NC, April 8-11. Details are still being worked out as to the hotel. Friday will be an excursion in the Southern Pines area, Saturday meetings, and Sunday a trip to the NC Railway Museum. President Weber expressed that when planning a conference, it is beneficial to engage other organizations in the planning and attendance. These groups don't necessarily need to be railroad related. Bob Bitzer stated that we all need to engage our membership to attend these meetings. It's important for all to know what is happening but also to see what other groups are doing.

Publications, Val Hoski, Charles Williams, Jeff Smith. All reports are online.

Film Library, Marlon Taylor-Looking for volunteers to help with film conversion. They need to take raw files and turn them into a presentation. Someone with experience would be necessary for this. Val said she would check with the university to see if they have someone who would be able to do this.

Railroad History Procedure Manual, Richard Shulby. He has finished the update as far as he can go with the roundhouse survey. Much of the information is taken from Google Earth which means it is outdated. He shows there are 189 roundhouses left in the country. About 26 are in museum use, some others in railroad use, and other are abandoned or in none railroad use. An updated report is on the Admin Site. He would like to see others go out and see if these are actually in existence. He will continue to update the list 3-4 times a year. He plans to start working on a document to list existing structures, right of ways, and other information.

By-Laws Committee, John Fiorilla. The committee has been meeting regularly. The biggest problem facing now is that many members of the board and directors will be reaching their term limits. They will be unable to run again. Because these positions are so hard to fill, one solution was to change the Districts to one member instead of two. This would bring the board down to 9. This will be discussed at the Board Meeting this afternoon. We would like to see a more active board. Also reducing the terms from four years to two. Many people have said that four years is too long a commitment to make. Then the term limit would be eight years. The document is on the Admin Site showing these changes. They also want to add an Assistant Treasurer to the Board as an officer. The districts also need to be restructured so any changes in the process need to be resolved now. They would like to come up with a simpler method.

There being no further reports, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman Del Kittendorf then called the Advisory Council meeting to order.

Alternate members attending the meeting: Adam Brower, Twin Forks Chapter and Helen Shaak, Lancaster Chapter.

National Reps and others on the phone: See Joint Meeting.

Directors Assigned by the President: See Joint Meeting.

The meeting Agenda was approved at the Joint Meeting.

There was a correction to the Minutes of the October 13, 2018 meeting. On page 4, under the Spring Conference, the Cincinnati Chapter is celebrating its 50th anniversary not its 20th.

Old Business:

Amendment: Chapter vs. National membership. Want to know why the Board didn't consider our change to membership. The board decided that since there are still chapters where all members belong to the national, they didn't want to change. They want to leave it the way it is until absolutely forced to change. Bob Ernst advised that the by-laws won't be voted on this afternoon. However, he will ask the

board to vote on whether or not to add this amendment to the changes. Discussion continued on this subject.

Open Microphone-

Tim Hensley-The chapter will not be running the New River Gorge. The chapter doesn't have the money to pay all the fees, in addition to internal problems. They don't want to sell any of the cars. They are currently looking at filing for Chapter 11. He wants to see the chapter survive even if they have to sell cars or the building. President Weber stated that the train ran well but Amtrak raised prices and changed the rules. They changed the price 2 times which raised process 26%.

Del asked for people to help him after the meeting with the Affiliate Handbook. Al Weber asked could the same type of document be done for chapters. Once the Affiliate document is done, the Chapter one can be looked into.

The banquet will begin at 6:30 with an open bar and dinner to follow. There are books for sale out front on the table.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Scott