

**2021 Spring Meeting Minutes**  
**NRHS Board of Directors**  
**GoTo Meeting**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2021**

Pursuant of notice, the Board of Directors of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. via GoToMeeting on Sunday, April 25, 2021.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Al Weber at 2PM EDT.

**Administrative**

There is a vacancy in District 1 due to Tony White becoming the Vice President. Please let Al know if there is someone interested from one of the chapters.

**Roll Call**

President Weber announced that Ellen Scott is the Secretary. Roll call was taken as members signed into GoToMeeting or announced themselves on the phone.

Name	Office
Al Weber	President
Tony White	Vice President
R. Douglas Scott Jr	District 1 Director
Charles Webb	District 2 Director
Harold Shaak	District 2 Director
Jon Baake	District 3 Director
Marlin R Taylor	District 3 Director
David Foster	District 4 Director
Frank Scheer	District 4 Director
Scott Andes	District 5 Director
John H Goodman	District 6 Director
John P Simanton	District 6 Director
Kenneth W Eddy	District 7 Director
Skip Waters	District 7 Director
Ricky Durant	District B Director
Jack Hilborn	District B Director
Roberta Ballard	Global Director
E Steven Barry	Global Director
Ned Harris	Global Director
Eric Fogg	Global Director
Regan Rickson	Global Director

There was a quorum present to conduct business.

General Counsel John Fiorilla, Walter Zullig, Treasurer Bob Bitzer, Asst. Treasurer Carol Ann Cornelius, NRHS Fund President Bob Ernst, Convention Committee Member Dawn Holmberg, VP Emeritus Joe Maloney, NRHS Fund Vice President Victor Varney, NRHS Fund Treasurer Cynthia Atwood, Membership Chair Hugh Harris, Discount List Chair Wes Ross, and NRHS News Editor Valli Hoski were also in attendance.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Actions of the Executive Committee**

None

## **New Business**

### **Discussion regarding the paintings left to the NRHS by the Estate of John Emery of Chicago**

When the paintings were originally given to the NRHS, an auction company wasn't interested. However, the current market appears to be interested in this type of artwork. Al has been in discussion with the company, and they have stated they were interested. Not sure if they will take all or part of the collection. There was much discussion on how to handle; use the auction company, try to sell on our own, offer to members first. John Goodman suggested that Al bring a painting to the convention and we have a silent auction at that time. We do have an appraisal for the artwork, and they all have provenance. We will move forward on this and hope to have items to auction in September.

Rail Art Appraisal posted on the Admin Site.

## **Reports**

**Treasurer's Report** – Bob Bitzer reported that the organization is very solvent. Reports were emailed to all and are posted on the Admin Site. They give a breakdown of the NRHS and the Fund. All reports and budget were approved. Dues are down. They have been declining somewhat and there is concern for the long term. We are in better shape than in previous years financially. Bob thanked Carol Ann for her work. She has been handling a lot of the comptroller job. She put together most of the reports for the audit with RKL. Bob has sent an article to Val Hoski regarding the need to fill the Comptroller positions for both the NRHS and the Fund. The article describes the job and will appear in the May issue of the News. If anyone knows of a person who might be interested, please get their name to Bob. The alternative is to go to an outside company.

**Advisory Council** – President Weber reported that there is no chairperson. He has asked several dozen chapter representatives, and no one has come forward. He asked the Board members to contact each chapter to look for someone to take this position and also for new members for the Council. A discussion followed.

**General Council** – John Fiorilla reported that he has been working on insurance. None is needed for RailCamp, but we do need it for the convention. No covid related insurance is available at this time. He is also writing contracts. He is also working on setting up rules for convention attendees. Most will have to sign a waiver and it will be required for attendance.

**RailCamp** – Tony White reported that the program was again cancelled this year. Both sites had no housing available since they were not allowing summer programs. All the partners have expressed interest in RailCamp returning next year.

Report posted on the Admin Site.

**Heritage Grants** – Charlie Webb explained that applicants can only have two years of consecutive grants. The committee also tries to distribute the grants nationally.

Report posted on the Admin Site.

**Publications** – Val Hoski advised that the deadline for the next publication of the News is May 10<sup>th</sup>. If not received by that date it will be held for the August issue. There is no July issue. There are 9 issues a year 3 of which are in black and white, and those three issues are printed and mailed via US Mail to all regular members. The color issues are in PDF format and issued in even months. She requested that each chapter do a newsletter exchange with the NRHS. Val is able to publish excerpts from those newsletters. The deadline for all News is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the issue.

**Bulletin** – There was a distribution mailing issue with the Post Office that was caught. Many members did not receive their copy. Not sure how many were included. Those who notified the NRHS received a copy if we had it to send out. As far as we know the problem has been corrected.

**NRHS Fund** – Bob Ernst. The committee has been meeting quarterly. The investment account has been doing well. They are actively fundraising and looking for assistance in developing other methods in the future.

Report posted on the Admin Site.

**Membership** – Hugh Harris reported we currently have 5,051 members. We had 311 new members in 2020 and currently have between 50-60 new members. Hugh reported that he had been having problems with reports in NEON. He was unable to get reliable information. He is currently looking at other membership sites to use.

Report posted on the Admin Site.

**Pin Awards** – Doug Scott advised that due to moving, pins awards are delayed but are now being worked on. A total of 84 pins will be awarded: 7 60 year, 24 50 year, and 53 25 year. There are no 70 or 75 year pins this year. A discussion followed regarding those members who pay late. Hugh will run the lists again to see if there are any more awards to be given.

**Survey of Members** – President Weber explained the selection process for the survey. 500 random names were selected, and they have until the end of May to reply. He has

looked at 100 so far. Some results were that of those who replied, 89% of the At Large member never attend conventions. Most of the results showed that they do not use the internet. He will have more results when all the replies are in.

**Facebook** – Skip Waters reported that Jeff Smith evaluated the page. It is more of a news aggregate site. We need to look more non-profit. Skip is currently posting chapter information, slide shows, presentations etc. Mostly rail interest. We need to have more of a non-profit appearance for Facebook.

### **Convention Reports** – John Goodman

#### **2021 Milwaukee, WI**

The convention dates are Monday, August 23 through Saturday August 28. The host hotel will be the Double Tree, Milwaukee Downtown. The rate is \$119. There is a charge if you drive or park at the hotel. There are restaurants nearby. The hotel does not provide airport shuttle service but there are busses, taxis, and ride share services. The Transportation Center is 3 blocks away.

The Registration Room will open mid afternoon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a seminar scheduled that evening.

The schedule of events is: All trips will require bus transportation

Tuesday, 8/24	National Railroad Museum in Green Bay Seminar in the evening
Wednesday, 8/25	East Troy Electric Railroad Museum, East Troy NRHS Banquet in the evening – Norm Carlton will be the speaker
Thursday, 8/26	Illinois Railway Museum, Union, IL Seminar in the evening
Friday, 8/27	Meetings all day Seminar in the evening
Saturday, 8/28	Special Metra Train to Antioch, IL Convention ends at the return of the buses to the hotel

We will have to sign waivers regarding Covid in order to attend. Registration should begin on May 20. A booklet will be on the website

### **Future Conventions**

**2022.** Return to Southern California with Knotts Berry Farm as the host hotel. John has to check on the pricing. Some trips could be: a bus trip to the Queen Mary, Amtrak to the museum in Campo, Ca, Filmore & Western. Someone mentioned visiting the San Diego Model RR. August would be the month. Discussion followed regarding the heat in that area in the summer. John Baake suggested June might be a better month. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to hold the 2021 convention in California, the month to be determined.

2023 East Broad Top

## 2024 South Florida

Discussion followed about both locations. Due to existing work at both, it was suggested to flip the dates and hold Florida in 2023 and East Broad Top in 2024. A motion was made, seconded and approved to go forward with these locations, dates to be determined.

## **Conferences – Bob Bitzer**

Fall Conference, Twin Forks Chapter, Ronkonkoma, NY, October 7-9, 2021. The hotel is the Holiday Inn, Islip Airport East. It is Exit 63 of the LIE. Friday will be a trip on the LIRR, Saturday will be meetings and the banquet. The Fund will meet after the trip on Friday. Not sure if a waiver will be required due to Covid.

Bob is looking for future sites. Johnson City TN pulled out. Bob is working with the Raleigh group for a date in 2023. He is looking for chapters or rail groups to run /sponsor conferences. They are the ones needed that do the local planning and set-up work. Bob has a conference instruction document he can send to anyone who is interested. There will be an article in the News about operating conferences. Visit Omaha was mentioned but there is no chapter there. Maybe think about it for a convention.

**New Chapters –** Skip Waters advised that he has heard from four groups expressing an interest in becoming chapters: Meridian Rails Historical (the Old Queen & Crescent Chapter), Galveston Railroad Museum, Hawaii Railway Society, and Bald Knob Arkansas (would be a Texas chapter). He will get information to the interested parties.

There being no further business, John Goodman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Skip Waters. Meeting adjourned at 5P.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ellen Scott*

Ellen Scott  
NRHS Secretary

