

**Meeting Minutes
NRHS Board of Directors
Spring Meeting
Saturday, February 26, 2022**

Pursuant of Notice, the Board of Directors of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. met virtually via GoToMeeting on Saturday, February 26, 2022.

President Al Weber called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM EST.

Roll Call

President Weber welcomed the Directors and to the meeting. The Board attendance for the meeting was as follows:

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Al Weber	President	A	
Tony White	Vice President	A	
E. Steven Barry	Global Director	A	
Ned Harris	Global Director	A	
Roberta Ballard	Global Director	A	
Regan Rickson	Global Director	A	
Eric Fogg	Global Director	A	
R. Douglas Scott, Jr.	District 1 Director		X
Harold Shaak	District 2 Director	A	
Charles Webb	District 2 Director	A	
Jon Baake	District 3 Director		X
Marlin Taylor	District 3 Director	A	
David Foster	District 4 Director	A	
Frank Scheer	District 4 Director	A	
Scott Andes	District 5 Director	A	
John Goodman	District 6 Director	A	
John Simanton	District 6 Director	A	
Kenneth Eddy	District 7 Director	A	
Skip Waters	District 7 Director	A	
Jeffrey S. Smith	District A Director		X
Patrick Molloy	District A Director	A	
Jack Hillborn	District B Director	A	
Ricky Durant	District B Director	A	

A = In Attendance X = Absent

Also, in attendance were Treasurer Bob Bitzer, NRHS Fund President Bob Ernst, Assistant Treasurer Carol Ann Cornelius, Inspector General Walter Zullig, General Counsel John Fiorilla, NRHS Fund Comptroller Kevin Feeney, Director Emeritus Joe Maloney, Membership Chair Hugh Harris, Director Emeritus Wes Ross, Val Hoski, Dan Meyer, Helen Shaak, Mike Walker.

Advisory Council Members in attendance:

Roanoke Chapter	Carl Jensen
Sunrise Trail Chapter	Ken Katta
Wisconsin Chapter	Mike Yuhas
Southeast Louisiana Chapter	David Brighters
Northstar Chapter	Dawn Holmberg
Blue Ridge Chapter	Bob Leslie
Baltimore Chapter	Richard Shulby
New York Chapter	Cora Sowa
Western Maryland Chapter	Richard Soderman
East Tennessee Chapter	Paul Hopkins
Bergen-Rockland Chapter	Rich Harrington

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Fall 2021 meeting and passed.

New Business

NRHS/R&LHS joint meeting – This meeting will be held in Sacramento. At that time the new board will be in place. John Simanton moved that we go ahead with the joint meeting, seconded by Scott Andes. This will move the 2023 convention from spring to fall. The meeting will be in May. Registration would be through R&LHS with our meetings at the end of the conference. If members attend their conference, they will be given a one-year membership in R&LHS. Discussion followed regarding the weather in Florida for holding the convention at that time. At the Fall meeting it was decided that we would try to not schedule meetings/conferences close together. This means the convention would have to be moved to the fall. Skip asked who this meeting would be open to; the BOD, or BOD and AC, would the membership be invited? Bob Bitzer answered that all would be involved. President Weber called the vote, approved.

Walter Zullig reported that Florida is running train in slow mode. Brightline should be finished to Orlando early in 2023, but not to Disney. We have no commitments yet, He has been looking into US Sugar in Clewiston, Gold Coast Railroad Museum, Tri-Rail (commuter rail). Tri-Rail, Amtrak, FEC, BrightLine and Miami Metrorail all have shops in South Florida. We will try to arrange at least one shop visit, but this is unlikely to happen. Some discussion followed about when it would be held, etc. At this time its too early to discuss dates but it will be in September, most likely early to mid-September. The 2023 Convention will be held in South Florida during September.

Membership Grace Period – Due to the change in membership renewal dates, the grace period for membership needs to be changed. We currently keep members active for 1 year. The change is 90 days after membership expires you will be dropped as a member. A motion was made to approve this change. There was discussion on the motion. Membership renewal is 12 months from the membership date. The board can decide when to terminate membership. The motion was called and approved.

Change in meeting format – President Weber stated that in the fall there will be a new board and committees. The Advisory Council needs to become more involved. We will discuss this more after the fall meeting.

Reports

Conventions- John Goodman. The tentative dates for the Florida convention are September 11-16, 2023.

Fullerton CA – May 15-20, 2022. All meetings will be on Monday, May 16. The Advisory Council will be 8:30AM-11:30AM. Lunch break. Board of Directors at 1:00PM-3:00PM. Information will be out soon. All contracts are in place. Check in will be on Sunday, May 15, in the afternoon. For those flying to California, the Long Beach airport is closer. The room rate at Knotts Berry Farm is \$119. The hotel does not offer shuttle service. There is a restaurant on site and there are others outside the park. The schedule is:

Tuesday- San Diego, Balboa Park. Visit the model railroad. We will bus to the park; the bus will then take us to the train station to take the Surf Liner back to Fullerton. The busses will meet us there to take us back to the hotel.

Wednesday- Orange Empire/Southern California Railroad Museum. There will be a food truck and picnic tables.

Thursday – Nethercutt Museum, Sylmar, CA. There is a Royal Hudson locomotive outside on display. There is a historic auto collection and musical instruments. Lunch will be in the park.

Friday – Griffith Park. There is a static train display there. Then to the Walt Disney Barn which houses a model railroad. At 3:30 is the Membership meeting. The banquet is that night. The speaker is the CEO of the Rail Giant Museum. Anyone interested can drive there.

The convention ends after the banquet.

John is still looking into the behind the scenes for the Knotts Berry Farm railroad. There is also a free shuttle to Disneyland.

Milwaukee was a good convention. The hotel gave us the room for the seminars. We can't do this in California due to the arrival times back at the hotel.

2024 – East Broad Top. Looks like we would stay in Harrisburg. We would also visit the Altoona Railroad Museum and Horseshoe Curve. Still exploring this venue. Vice President White stated that East Broad Top wants us to come. There is work currently being done. They also have a pavilion for a picnic. The Harrisburg chapter is located there. There are hotels in the downtown area.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Bitzer. Carol Ann prepared the reports. The budget has been amended to show the \$100,000 to Heritage Grants. The 990 tax filings should be posted to the Admin Site. RKL and auditor reports will be posted soon. Dawn advised that the Fund 990 has been posted. A question was asked about Emblem sales. They are old stock items, T-shirts, etc. The next question was regarding the historic art collection. The items are shown with the appraised value versus the sold value.

A question was asked at the Ronkonkoma meeting regarding funds kept in bank accounts. The question was why so much in each of the accounts. Was there a practical amount that could be invested? Bob explained that most of these accounts have minimum balance requirements, and we have cash flow amounts to pay bills. The minimum amounts are Wells Fargo \$40K, PNC \$30K, Blackhawk \$20K, and PayPal has no minimum, but we keep \$3000 in the account. \$263,000 has been transferred to the Fund to invest.

Advisory Council – Carl Jensen reported that Becky Gerstung was looking into getting actual members on the council. They found that there are 90 chapters with 9 no longer in existence. Those chapters no longer active have been advised to return their charters. Letters will be going out to all the chapters and representatives to let them know what the job of the rep is. Charlie Webb suggested that all chapter presidents should be made the Advisory Council member of record, and they can appoint a member to attend for them. In the past, when all chapters were active, there still was not full participation. Val Hoski said that if the Advisory Council sends her an article, she will post it.

General Counsel – John Fiorilla is reviewing contracts and insurance. Trademark renewals are coming up with the patent office. He is working with the Grants committee.

RailCamp – Tony White reported that the committee held off on putting the application online because of some delays with the partners. He had signed contracts with the Strasburg Railroad and the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania in October. He hasn't received contract from Amtrak. When he contacted the college, they weren't certain if they would be holding summer activities at the time. They felt they would know by the end of January. Since they are a big component of RailCamp, no decision would be made until hearing back from them. By the end of January, we had the go-ahead from them. In the meantime, the decision was made to cancel for this year and hope that by next year all the restrictions due to Covid will have been addressed.

Heritage Grants – Charlie Webb. The deadline for grants is February 28. He's received 16 so far. The committee has granted extensions for those given in 2019 and 2020 due to Covid. He will put something in the News and Facebook.

Publications - Val Hoski thanked Charlie for sending her the grant information She suggested the information be posted on the website under grants. She also stated she welcomes everyone's input but to please be courteous.

March issue of the News will be mailed.

April will go out before the convention

May will be a print issue

June will be posted online between the 5th and 10th. She will be looking for convention photos.

She asked for a description of what the committees do to be sent to her.

Carol Ann Cornelius advised that all 2021 Bulletins have been published.

NRHS Fund – Bob Ernst reported the Fund meets quarterly. They receive the Wells Fargo report quarterly. Membership donations totaled \$90,000. They are looking into other ways to obtain donations. A suggestion would be a Fund-Raising committee. They will not be holding a meeting at the convention.

Membership – Hugh Harris. We currently have 3051 members and 538 family membership for a total of 3589 members. We are slightly ahead of last year. There are approximately 100 + not recorded yet. Renewals done in October through December were for this year. The grace period will help this in the future. The Post Office is having a lot of problems. People are not getting their mail. Some of the problems are with our current database. There is no way to check each label before mailing. Between .5%-1% of all labels are incorrect. We can only resend to each customer. The cost to fix this problem is approximately \$30K - \$35K to fix. Once this is done, we would only pay the server fee. He will be meeting with the membership group and bring up at the next meeting.

Electoral Committee – Bob Ernst. The report was sent to the Board. Nominations deadline is 3/32. Ballots to be sent out by 6/1 and will be counted mid-August.

Photo Contest – Tony White, Jeff Smith, and Mike Yuhas are the committee members from the NRHS. The committee is taking all the information so the judges will have no information regarding the photos. The deadline is June 1. So far there are 80 photos from 33 people. Winners will be in the November 22 issue of Trains magazine. More information is available at TrainsContest@nrhs.com and trains.com/trn/photocontest.

Conferences – Bob Bitzer. The Fall Conference will be in Springdale AR. The Holiday Inn rate is \$99 per night and the rate is good for before and after the conference. The dates are 9/22 – 9/24. Thursday, 9/22 – Registration, Friday, 9/23 – Trip: Arkansas Missouri Railroad. Will include a photo stop. Box lunch. Tour of the shops before heading back to the hotel. Saturday 9/24 – Advisory Council meeting in the morning, Board of Directors meeting in the afternoon, and a banquet at 7PM. The speaker is Chris Berger.

On Sunday the 25th is a rare mileage excursion. This is not part of the conference. It is being offered by the railroad.

Bob is looking for locations for 2023 conferences and beyond. Val Hoski suggested Detroit MI area.

Bob Bitzer moved that we hold the Fall Conference (9/22-924 NRHS, 9/25 Railroad) In Springdale AR. Seconded, approved.
There were no announcements.

John Goodman moved that we adjourn the meeting. A recommendation was made to update the events sections of the website to list Fullerton and Springdale.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Scott

Ellen Scott
Secretary

Minutes approved Monday, May 16, 2022