



Minutes of the NRHS Advisory Council

Anchorage, AK

September 18, 2013
(Approved November 9, 2013)

Bob Ernst – NRHS Assistant Secretary, presiding member. Call to order at 8:03AM. Acting in Scott Andes' absence.

Roll Call

The sign-in sheet was passed around to all National Representatives, members and guests. See Appendix A.

Letters to the Secretary:

Alternate, Philadelphia Chapter – Sheila Dorr
Alternate, Saint Louis Chapter – Ron Gawedzinski
Alternate, Collis P. Huntington Chapter – Don Maxwell
Alternate, Gulf Curve Chapter – Bill Gronosky

Approval of the Fall 2012 Meeting Minutes

Motion: John Simanton moved to approve the minutes of the Summer 2013 Advisory Council Meeting held June 29, 2013 in Bloomington, MN. Rick Davidson second. Passed by voice vote.

Report from the Chair Pro Tempore

In Scott Andes' absence, Bob Ernst gave a short report the work that the Strategic Planning Committees on Relationships and Business Transactions are handling. All 4 of the Strategic Planning Committees are looking for additional members from the Advisory Council.

Report from the Board of Directors

Joe Maloney reported that the BOD minutes from the Summer 2013 meeting have been approved and are now posted on the admin.nrhs.com web site. Greg Molloy reported that the 2012 audit has been completed and that the audit report is likewise posted on the admin.nrhs.com web site.

Report from the National Office

Greg Molloy reported that NRHS is completing work on getting the 2014 dues notices in the mail.

Old Business

1. **Yahoo Group** – Del Kittendorf has set up and is maintaining the Yahoo Group for the Advisory Council. To date, nine (9) AC members have signed up for the group. In discussions, the consensus was that Yahoo is preferred for this purpose over Facebook. Members pointed out that AC members must logon to Yahoo and "Opt In" in order to be registered for the group.

2. **Video & teleconferencing** – Discussions covered the problems with the cost of handling AC members' participation as opposed to any technical issues.
3. **Advisory Council Participation** – Attendance at AC meetings so far has been okay, we AC members present at this meeting would like to see more chapters actively participating in these meetings. Jon Baake is looking forward to the BOD tasking the AC with specific actions needed for improving the NRHS' work.

NRHS Members' Open Microphone

1. **2012 Audit Report** – Jon Baake advised that he would like to see pie charts graphically showing both income and expenses groupings. Is the 2013 approved budget on the web site? Yes – posted on admin.nrhs.com, Advisory Council page, Financial Information (Posted August 23, 2013).
2. **2014 Dues Increase** – Extensive discussion, both pro and con, about the necessity and size of the dues increase approved for 2014. Discussions ran the gauntlet about NRHS operations, publications, bringing back certain chapters, and other concerns. Dues bills were expected to reach NRHS members before the end of September.
3. **Convention Insurance** – Question arose about whether we needed \$5 Million in liability insurance for this convention. John Fiorilla confirmed that NRHS needed this insurance because we are riding special excursion trains on the Alaska RR, operating over freight-only trackage, and conducting photo runbys,
4. **Reinventing NRHS** - Question arose about how NRHS is reinventing itself. Business, demographics and technology are all changing and are forcing NRHS to change as well in order to survive. Four strategic planning committees are working on many issues, and the Board of Directors will soon need to prioritize those issues into action plans for NRHS management to implement.
5. **Print Library Accessibility** – The library is accessible, but the collection is not easy to access. Any improvements will cost money, and that choice will be based on how important such accessibility ranks with other NRHS strategic needs. As information, most of the NRHS print collection consists of materials for which other people and organizations hold the copyrights. The contract is a professionally operated book depository whose storage conditions now cost NRHS about 20% of what we paid in the former site in Philadelphia whose storage conditions were quite poor.
6. **Heart of Dixie Comments** – This chapter is growing, but the dues increase will challenge further growth. Many members want NRHS to reduce services and cut dues.
7. **Long Island – Sunrise Trail Comments** – The 2014 dues increase amounts to 3 cents per day, and should not be a significant concerns. To increase chapter visibility, chapters should be looking to partnering with other NRHS chapters and other organizations in work or projects that could mutually benefit themselves.
8. **Communications** – Various members addressed communications needs and problems with current communications and publications. Concerning the *NRHS Bulletin*, views ran the spectrum from liking what NRHS has done, to disliking the size and current format, with little consensus about what should be done. More outreach-type programs are needed to get young people involved with NRHS in some capacity, including restoring and preserving rail equipment, Operation Lifesaver, and others. NRHS needs to continue explaining to the membership what they get in return for their dues, including such things as RailCamp, Rail Heritage Preservation Grants, the two publications, promoting photographers' rights, and the like. Members need to see where their dues are spent. As a 501(c)(3) corporation, we need to better emphasize the charitable aspects of NRHS akin to how such groups as the American Red ask for donations. Should someone not donate to that sort of charity if no flood or tornado hits their house, or they do not contract cancer? NRHS should find a more graphically appealing means to get its message across to members and other people alike.
9. **General Feedback from East Tennessee Chapter** – Paul Hopkins reports that the chapter is overall impressed with the quality of both the *NRHS News* and *NRHS Bulletin*. The average member has access to

information via the NRHS web site. But, NRHS needs to find a more visually appealing way to present its finances to the layperson.

New Business

No one introduced any new business items

Upcoming Conferences

1. Fall 2013 – Claymont, DE (November 9, 2013)
2. Spring 2014 – Lewisburg, PA (April 26, 2014)
3. Summer 2014 – Springdale, AR (June 2014)

Adjournment

Motion: Sam Boldrick moved, and John Simanton seconded a motion to adjourn.
Approved by voice vote at 1:10 p.m. ADT.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph C. Maloney, Jr.
NRHS Secretary

Appendix A

Chapters Represented at the Advisory Council Meeting

Anchorage, AK

September 18, 2013

Chapter Representative

Atlanta Chapter, NRHS	Delmar F. Kittendorf, Jr.
Blackhawk Chapter, NRHS	Robert J. Murray, Jr.
Bergan-Rockland Chapter, NRHS	Donald Winters
Central Coast Chapter, NRHS	Edward F. Graham
Central New York Chapter, NRHS	Paul Yonge
Cincinnati Chapter, NRHS	William Scott Andes
Collis P. Huntington Chapter, NRHS	Maurice Hartz
Cumberland Valley Chapter, NRHS	David Watts
George L. Carter Chapter, NRHS	Jim Pahriss
Gulf Curve Chapter, NRHS	Harla Lazur
Heart Of Dixie Chapter, NRHS	Martin P. Owen
Inland Empire Chapter, NRHS	John P. Simanton
Kentucky Central Chapter, NRHS	Shirley Ross
Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter, NRHS	Timothy E. O'Malley
Lancaster Chapter, NRHS	Fred Kurtz
Leatherstocking Chapter, NRHS	Mark Lazur
Niagara Frontier Chapter, NRHS	Rebecca Gerstung
North Alabama Chapter, NRHS	G. Patrick Molloy
North Florida Chapter, NRHS	Marjorie Williams Fiorilla
North Texas Chapter, NRHS	Skip Waters (Alternate)
Northstar Chapter, NRHS	John Goodman (Alternate)
Old Dominion Chapter, NRHS	Sanford C. Williamson
Old Smoky Chapter, NRHS	Robert Freeman
Philadelphia Chapter, NRHS	Peter M. Senin, Jr.
Potomac Chapter, NRHS	Rick Davidson
Rappahannock Chapter, NRHS	Ted Barker
Roanoke Chapter, NRHS	Carl S. Jensen
Saint Louis Chapter, NRHS	Dr. Albert Howe
Ulster & Delaware Chapter, NRHS	Donald F. Bishop, II
Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter, NRHS	Mark Lazur
Washington DC Chapter, NRHS	Jon H. Baake
West Jersey Chapter, NRHS	Frederick Ciocciola
Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS	Tony White
Western Maryland Chapter, NRHS	Frank B. Fowler, Jr.
Winchester Chapter, NRHS	Berton Robinson

Officers, Directors, Members, Staff Members and Guests**Advisory Council Meeting Attendance****Anchorage, AK****September 18, 2013****Officers and Directors Present**

Gregory P. Molloy	NRHS President
David Flinn	Global Director
Robert Ernst	Global Director / Assistant Secretary
Bill Bain	Global Director
Steve Barry	Global Director
Joe Maloney	District 3 / Secretary
Bob Bitzer	District 3 / Treasurer
Larry Dyer	District 4
Wes Ross	District 5
Don Maxwell	District 5
Al Weber	District 6
Duane Durr	District 6
Claude Doane	District 7
Jeff Smith	District A

Staff Members and Guests Present

John K. Fiorilla	NRHS General Council
Kristen Olszewski	Fernley & Fernley NRHS Account Director
David Baniewicz	NRHS Emblem Sales
Mike Brock	Cincinnati Chapter, NRHS
Hugh R. Harris	Hoosierland Chapter, NRHS
Alma Harris	Hoosierland Chapter, NRHS
Wilfred F. Waters III	North Texas Chapter, NRHS
Roberta Ballard	Western Connecticut Chapter, NRHS