

Advisory Council Agenda, June 23, 2017

1. Call to Order:
2. Welcome & Housekeeping:
 - a. Introduce Local Host: John Goodman
 - b. Roll Call:
 - i. Recent Changes and Alternates
 - ii. National Reps and others on the phone:
 - iii. Directors Assigned by the President:
 - c. Agenda Review & motion for and Approval
3. Minutes from the Claymont, DE: Distributed & Posted on 5/27/2017.
 - a. Motion for and Approval
4. Report from the Chair: Thanks to Roberta Ballard for Claymont Meeting Minutes, Wes Ross for his Attractions list.
5. Officer & Committee Reports.
 - A. President Al Weber's Remarks for himself and on behalf of the Board of Directors.
 - B. Vice President: Joe Maloney Film Library, Print Library, Awards, Other
 - C. NRHS Secretary: Bob Ernst
 - D Treasurer/Comptroller Note: Bob Bitzer/Bob Heavenrich
 - E. NRHS Fund:
 - F. Membership Current Status (Amillia replacement?), Brochure status? Jon Baake
 - G. RailCamp: Becky Gerstung
 - H. Heritage Grants: Carl Jensen
 - I. Attractions List: Wes Ross
 - J. Convention Committee: John Goodman (See Attached Report)
 - K. Future Conferences: Bob Bitzer
 - L. Railroad History Procedure Manual: Richard Shulby
 - M. Board Chapter Definition Committee:
6. Old Business
 - A.
7. New Business
 - Theme: How can we enhance the image of NRHS as in the realm of Rail preservation:
 - A. Workshop 1: Spreading the NRHS Message. Leader:
 - B. Workshop 2: Using printed materials. Leader:
8. Open Microphone: Are there any Guests who would like to make comments or bring up possible business
9. Announcements:
10.
 - A. Review report to Board, action items, etc.
 - B. Closing Housekeeping: Lunch, afternoon meetings, banquet, etc.
11. Adjournment

NRHS 2018 Convention Report From John Goodman

Dear Del,

President Weber, Executive Staff, and National Representatives:

President Weber directed me to make a quick visit to Cass/Elkins, WV, which I just completed this past weekend. This is in preparation for my discussion at next week's BOD meeting concerning our recent decision at our recent Spring BOD meeting in Delaware, to make Cass, WV as the site for our 2018 summer convention location.

Unfortunately, upon visiting both Cass and Elkins, WV, I find this to be a very difficult location for our summer convention. The big problem is access to either of these locations via land transportation other than private automobile. There is no passenger rail, no public bus, and no airport in the area with any airlines of any size, even serving any areas nearby. The closest would be Amtrak to White Sulphur Springs, WV via it trains 50-51, The Cardinal. It is 62 miles up the mountain by private automobile. There are no rental cars available at this location.

The Cass area is wonderful for any railfan, and it is like going back over 60 years in its historical ambivalence, what with the steam locomotives, etc. I had a discussion with the Sales Manager of the nearby (9 miles away) ski resort of Snowshoe Mountain. She is willing to give us a \$125.00 rate for the week of July 16-19, 2018 up at the top of the mountain in a condo type of housing. There are many restaurants and meeting areas in this location, and they would have available buses to take our people down to Cass for the steam operations. We would have all our meetings, seminars, and banquet up on the mountain in this area.

In Elkins, WV there are some smaller hotels nearby the former Western Maryland RR station, where their trains operate in connection with Cass trains to/from Cass WV.

In all of these cases we still have the problem of "getting there" which will certainly cut into our attendance for our 2018 convention.

I did asked our bus person (Steve Siegerist) to investigate if there were a charter bus operator at Cumberland, MD, where Amtrak's Capitol Limited #29-30 operate

on a daily basis. He did find out that there is such a charter service at that location. They quoted Steve about \$1,000.00 for a charter from Cumberland to Cass. We would need service going up to Cass on Tuesday evening (3 1/2 hour trip) and returning on Sunday back from Cass to Cumberland.

I need the direction from all of you as to how I can move forward on 2018.

One other option would be to locate the convention in Cumberland (yes, we were just there last year for a BOD meeting) and spend one very long day going up to Cass and riding their trains, but coming back to Cumberland that evening. Another day could be spent riding the nearby Potomac Eagle for a full day, then a third day riding the locally steam operated Western Maryland Scenic, which is right in town. (and will have a newly rebuilt steam engine in operation by that time)

Please give me your input at the BOD meeting as how I should move forward.

Thank you,
John H. Goodman
National Convention Chairman
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