

NRHS Advisory Council
Cumberland, MD Meeting
August 9, 2018

Chairman Del Kittendorf called the meeting of the Advisory Council to order at 8:07 AM. He went over some housekeeping items and advised those on the phone to text the name and chapter to a number. He wished Ed Graham a happy 90th birthday. He also read a list from Eileen Weber regarding registration, items for sale, raffle tickets, donations, and seating sign-up for the banquet.

John Goodman, Convention Host – The trip on Wednesday was a success. Everything went well. The busses will leave on Friday at 8 AM to arrive in Romney by 9. We will board at 9:30. There is a snack bar on the train but it takes cash only. Once we get back, everyone must board the busses. No one is allowed to stay behind once the ride is over. A bus will leave from the hotel later for the night photo shoot.

Del announced that Helen Shaak would be representing the Lancaster Chapter at the meeting.

President Al Weber assigned the following directors to the meeting: Steve Barry, Doug Scott, and Steve Siegerist.

A motion was made to accept the agenda and approved.

A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes from the St. Louis meeting with the spelling corrections that had already been made.

Officer and Committee Reports

President, Al Weber – He'll talk at the Membership Meeting about his trip to Ogden. Things are moving right along. It's nine months away at this point. He receives newsletters from chapters and learns a lot about the chapters from reading them.

Vice President, Joe Maloney – The awards replacement will be Doug Scott. The Print Library and other items in Three Rivers have all been accounted for. He has received cost proposals for moving the items to Burlington NJ. All books have been moved to Texas.

NRHS Secretary, Bob Ernst – Make sure that everyone signs in. The sheets are currently going around. He is still looking for updated information from chapters regarding mailing address, telephone number(s), and officer names including the chapter representative. 37 chapters have replied so far.

Treasurer/Comptroller – Bob Bitzer reported that the financial report is on the website and our stability is excellent. He is currently working on the 2019 budget. It's important that all committees get their numbers to Bob and Bob Heavenrich so it can be done in time for the Scranton meeting. Bob Heavenrich reported that the audit is still in progress but all looks well. We've remained financially stable. A discussion regarding financials followed.

NRHS Fund, Wes Weis – The Fund is doing well but he needs more help. He's looking for a few trustees and people to help advise with investments. Discussion followed regarding the balance. Wes also advised we are getting a 4% investment return at this time.

RailCamp, Tony White – He has a report from Becky Gerstung. She will have a formal one at the Fall Conference. By that time all the bills should be paid. We had 36 campers from 19 states. For the first time we had 3 female campers at East camp. Any campers requesting financial

assistance received it. 22 campers received either full or partial scholarships. For the first time she attended RailCamp East. She was impressed by the staff, counselors, and partners. He and Ellen Scott both attended RailCamp West and can answer any questions. The West camp had 12 male campers.

Heritage Grants, Carl Jensen – There isn't much money in the Grants Fund. We're not getting enough donations. Maybe we should designate a set amount. We're also not receiving applications from the chapters for grant money. Discussion followed. Jon Baake suggested that we add a line item in the budget to support the grant program. Bob Heavenrich advised that there is a line item already. A motion was made and seconded to add a line item to the budget in the amount of \$50,000. Discussion followed. Bob Bitzer stated again that there is a line item already in the budget, account #9100 in the amount of \$15,000 for grants. The council needs to make a recommendation to the Budget Committee for \$50,000. He also said that there is a need to develop a fund raising program to get grants funds. The motion was changed to read: the line item in the budget for 2019 be changed from \$15,000 to \$50,000 for Heritage Grants, account #9100. The motion was approved.

Affiliate Membership & Brochures, Jon Baake – Membership is growing. It's currently around 5000. We're not sure how the new members are finding out about us so a change will be made in the website application to ask people how they heard about us. 20,000 brochures have been printed. 10,000 went to attractions and members requesting brochures have received them. There are brochures in the lobby for people to take with them or you can sign up to have them mailed.

There is no update on affiliates.

Website, Dawn Holmberg – gave a report on changes and updates being done to the website.

Attractions, Wes Weis – The list is on the website. Make sure everyone tells their members to check the lists for discounts at attractions.

Convention Committee, John Goodman –

2017 Nashville TN- very successful

2018 Cumberland MD – looks to be very successful. All the trips have had good attendance.

2019 Ogden UT – President Weber attended a meeting and things are coming together. We have a hotel in Salt Lake City, the Radisson. Events will be in Ogden, Promontory, and Heber City. Details are still being worked on.

2020 Skip looked into New Orleans but that is not a viable location. No big railroads. Suggestions received so far are: Lancaster PA, Grand Canyon, LA area/Fullerton, Lansing MI, and Vancouver BC. More will be done after this convention.

2021 Del is the connection with Florida East Coast Railway Society and the Bright Line Railroads. He's working with Florida East Coast that is an affiliate of the NRHS. Would probably be centered in West Palm Beach. They are hoping to have steam by that time,

Future Conferences, Bob Bitzer –

Fall 2018 Scranton PA. Will be held October 11-14. Tony Verbyla advised there is still time to register. Applications are on the Admin Site. It's the 45th anniversary of the Lackawanna & Wyoming Valley Chapter. Trips on Friday and Sunday, and meetings on Saturday. A night photo shoot is being worked on for Friday night.

Spring 2019 Birmingham AL. Due to the early convention, this meeting will be March 21-23. The hotel is the Doubletree, \$129 per night with free parking and breakfast.

Fall 2019 Dallas TX. This has been approved. The dates are November 7-10.

Spring 2020 Cincinnati OH has been approved. It's the 50th anniversary of the chapter.

Fall 2020 Johnson City TN. Bid to be made.

Publications, Val Hoski – The Telegraph comes out every other month. The schedule is on the Admin Site. She thanked Charles Williams and Jeff Smith for their assistance. The Telegraph is changing to a new format so things may look different for a while. Al Weber reported that the Bulletin has been mailed and two others are in cycle. The NRHS news that is mailed is printed in black and white. It is not the same as the color version on line. This is done to keep the costs down. For members who do not have email, maybe chapter members can print out copies for them. Val suggested that they look to their local library or other places for printing.

Railroad History Procedure Manual, Richard Shulby – he has gathered enough material to put in a new database. Once that's done he will reach out to determine what is current and what is not.

Old Business

Nominating Committee, Scott Andes – Members of the committee are Carl Jensen, Jon Baake, and Scott. The election will be held at the Fall Meeting in Scranton PA. Both Scott and Del have agreed to stay in their positions. Ellen Scott has some concerns about the secretary position. Because of other commitments she is not able to attend some meetings. She agreed to continue on if the council can find someone as a backup. Scott moved that the council add the position of Assistant Secretary. The motion was approved. Ellen will stay on as secretary and we will look for an Assistant Secretary. Del encouraged others to run for these positions.

New Business

Announcements – Chairman Del Kittendorf again read the list from Eileen Weber regarding registration, items for sale, raffle tickets, donations, and seating sign-up for the banquet.

Report to the Board – Del will advise the board that the council recommends increasing the line item #9100 in the 2019 budget to \$50,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Scott
Secretary