

**Minutes of the Eighty Fifth
NRHS Annual Membership Meeting
Radisson Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT
Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

Pursuant of notice, the members of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. met at the Radisson Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT, Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

1 - Call to Order

President Al Weber called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. MDT. One hundred two members and guests were present.

2 - Approval of Minutes

Secretary Bob Ernst presented the minutes of the membership meeting held in Cumberland, MD on August 9, 2018. There were no comments received from NRHS members that affected the wording on the draft minutes.

Motion: Mr. John Sweigart motioned and Mr. Jon Baake seconded the motion to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried.

3 - President's Report

President Weber welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending the convention. He noted that the NRHS is again modestly gaining membership this year. The Society is in good financial condition. He is asking all members to report contact changes to the NRHS, along with changes in family memberships.

This convention will be last one to use the Regonline system for ticketing. Next year the Neon event registration will be used.

The IRS 990 forms for the NRHS and NRHS fund have been processed as usual.

The NRHS will have a new website. The site will be converted in June 2019. It will be on an easier platform to make changes and keep the information up to date.

The NRHS has had some notable deaths in the past year.

4 - Introduction of Officers and Staff

President Weber introduced the officers and staff who attended this meeting.

5 - New Business

The Secretary received 1155 proxies via mail from the membership.

Item 1: There was no new business presented from the floor.

6 – Questions and Initiatives from the Membership

President Weber opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Harry Lenz, President, Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter, inquired if an update is available on the revival of the Chapter Activities Report.

President Weber responded that it is still possible if done in an electronic version. With the upgrade in the website language platform, this is now a real possibility. He envisions a chapter activities page on the website with chapter web links.

A member asked how we are promoting membership and the age of the membership.

President Weber responded that the NRHS is placing ads in publications such as *Trains Magazine* and receiving memberships. There is a NRHS membership brochure available by contacting the NRHS and President Weber urged chapters and members to obtain copies and distribute them in their areas.

The NRHS is working on a membership survey which will ask members what is important to them in the NRHS.

President Weber asked for assistance on writing articles about the activities of the NRHS for the various rail publications.

President Weber reviewed the RailCamp program as a way to bring youths into the NRHS. He noted the success of the programs and that a few former campers are attending the convention. He urged chapters and members to sponsor campers and recommend the program to youths in their areas.

A number of members in attendance voiced their displeasure on the inability to obtain a reservation at the Radisson Hotel for the convention. Most noted that they attempted to make reservations earlier in the year, but were told the room allotment was full. Some were able to make reservations but at the higher standard rate, not the NRHS rate. President Weber responded that the NRHS did expand the room allocation twice with the hotel. The room nights did fill up quickly. However, there were cancellations made just prior to the convention, but the hotel did not keep the NRHS informed of rooms becoming available due to the cancellations.

7 - Adjournment

Mr. Steven Siegerist motioned to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50PM, MDT.

Respectfully submitted

Robert J. Ernst
Secretary
National Railway Historical Society