

CALENDAR

May 30 – June 3, 2018

2018 NRHS Spring Conference
Advisory Council and Board of
Directors' Meetings
St. Louis, MO
www.nrhs.com

August 7 - 12, 2018

2018 NRHS Convention
Cumberland, MD
www.nrhs.com

October 11 - 13, 2018

2018 NRHS Fall Conference
Advisory Council and Board of
Directors' Meetings
Scranton, PA
www.nrhs.com

Spring 2019

2019 NRHS Spring Conference
(Location to be confirmed)
www.nrhs.com

May 2019

2019 NRHS Convention
Salt Lake City UT
www.nrhs.com

November 8-9, 2019

2019 NRHS Fall Conference
Dallas, TX
www.nrhs.com

NRHS Member Update

Submitted by Al Weber, President

To better serve members and differentiate the NRHS publications, the Telegraph will focus on the chapter level rather than the general membership. A critical first step is to ensure that the new database has accurate contact information for each chapter's leadership team. Your help is needed to confirm that the contact information for the chapter's officers, newsletter editor, and Advisory Council Representative is current, correct and sent to National.

National will notify the chapters' leadership teams when a new *Telegraph* is available. This replaces the email blast sent to the general membership. The *Telegraph* will still be posted and accessible to all through the NRHS admin site.

Also, please share information and news that would be of interest to other chapters and leadership. The Advisory Council Representative is kindly asked to send this information to the Telegraph editor, Val Hoski (TelegraphVal@gmail.com).

Bob Ernst will be updating the database with this chapter contact list. Please keep him and your District directors advised of changes in the chapter officers over this new membership year. Al Weber <aweber@nrhs.com>

Spring Conference Registration & Hotel Information Available

Submitted by Ron Gawedzinski, St Louis Chapter Advisory Council Representative

Registration for the NRHS 2018 Spring Conference in St. Louis MO is now open. Hotel information, registration form and more details are included on the last 3 pages of this month's *NRHS Telegraph*.

Members' Matters

Submitted by Hugh R. Harris, Membership Administrator

As of mid-February 2018, 3,893 renewals have been processed, with about 100 entries to be added. Online renewals continue to arrive steadily.

Please advise your chapter members to be careful when renewing online. Currently, the new database allows a member to select multiple chapters, rather than a single "home" Chapter. This is not the NRHS' intention and is an error. (Continued on p. 2)

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The database company (Neon) should correct that soon. In the interim, please remind members to select only one chapter (their home chapter) when setting up or modifying their account.

Why is this so important? The new National database should record only your home chapter, where you vote in the director elections. This is critical to ensure accurate membership and election processing. Each member is entitled to vote for directors based on the home chapter and district. If a member has more than one chapter in the database, National cannot identify the correct home chapter in order to send the correct election forms. The Family Links are being fixed, but not all are corrected yet. If a member wishes to renew with a spouse or other family member, please contact Hugh Harris at hughrharris@aol.com or membership@nrhs.com. Please do so before logging in, so the link to the accounts and email address are correct.

NRHS Summer Convention Hotel Update

Submitted by John Goodman, National
Convention Chairman

The NRHS is pleased to announce a deeply discounted hotel rate for the August 7-12, 2018 convention "Cumberland Rails." The Ramada Hotel, downtown, Cumberland, MD is the host hotel. The daily rate is \$72.00 + tax, per night for 1 or 2 people in a room. You may request a room with either two double beds or one king bed room. Also, this rate is available for 2 days before or after the convention.

Please phone the hotel direct at (1-301-724-8800). To obtain the NRHS special rate, please give the code word "LOCOMOTIVE" to the clerk.

The hotel has 53 king rooms and 54 double rooms. Buffet breakfast is included in the daily rate, served in their first floor restaurant until 9:00 a.m. daily.

Complimentary on-site parking is included. The hotel is located at Exit 43C just off I-68 in Cumberland, MD.

Further convention information will be available soon on the NRHS web site (www.nrhs.com).

Tips for Increasing Chapter Visibility and Membership

Submitted by Al Weber, President

If you wonder what are the most frequent questions I am asked, well, wonder no more:

- Do you have ideas on how to increase attendance at our chapter meetings and membership in general?
- Do you and the NRHS have ideas that can be discussed and implemented?"

Both are very good questions. Below are some useful, practical, doable

suggestions for Chapters.

1) *Reach out to the local or regional library, offer a local display or program.*

- Displays. – Libraries often need and welcome interesting objects or a small collection for display in the library or lobby.
- Programs or informal talks. – Offer and provide one or more library ‘talks’ or programs on local railroads or similar topic each year. A program previously done at a chapter meeting may work well, if tweaked to the time limit and interest of the public. Rather than a commercial DVD, a successful program is relevant to the local audience, linked to the area, and presented by someone who is comfortable speaking with the public. The library will publicize the event, and you just give the talk.

2) *Provide a chapter table and display at local train shows.*

- Let the public know. – Set up a display and sign with chapter news, events, newsletters, and similar ‘takeaway’ items. Have chapter members ready to meet and greet the public (be sure to wear the chapter’s shirt or the NRHS logo attire, if possible.)
- Support local shows, grow relationships. - Offer to purchase a table, even if offered free. Table rental shows your chapter’s support for the local organization sponsoring the show. If national shows come to your area, go and promote the chapter. Take flyers with meeting dates, locations and maps, chapter newsletters, and schedules of upcoming field trips or events. Share a table with other train and museum groups occasionally. Both groups will be rewarded with publicity.

3) *Display at / support local hobby shops.*

- Provide and display NRHS and chapter brochures in all local hobby

stores, even those that do not feature model trains. Typically, shop owners welcome colorful brochures or flyers that attract the public and bring them business.

- Check on flyers and restock (the perfect reason to visit hobby shops often!).

4) *Plan, publicize and offer field trips or excursions.*

- Reach out with local trips or tours. – Look for ideas for local field trips or tours, for a chapter and public outing. Start small but publicize wide, and the public will likely come. Seek out locations that the public might not know or seek out on their own. Provide an informal but informative guide to bring the trip “to life” for members and public alike.
- Connect with Amtrak. – If Amtrak runs close by, look into a day trip, even if the group is small. A local destination, easily accessible by rail, becomes special when organized into an outing. A lunch or dinner ‘out trackside’, even if just a hour’s ride out and back, is a special event.
- Consider renting an Amtrak car for a day trip. Up front cost may be high, but with careful planning and publicity, a chapter can make money on them.

5) *Be visible at Railroad Days.*

- Join local railroad days and celebrations. Be present and active at National Train Day at the local Amtrak Station.
- Local news stations usually cover the action and provide free publicity. Be sure to have flyers and chapter handouts ready to go.

6) *Participate and assist with events at local museums and other organizations around the area.*

Support your local museums, whether rail, preservation, history related or not. All have events, large or small, and are a great place to meet, share and talk up

your group and interest. Show your support, offer to give a program and they will want you there.

Each museum and every event provide a local opportunity for outreach for your chapter and the NRHS. Maybe one or two might discover or rekindle an interest in modeling, railroading, history and even join up. Please keep a supply of the NRHS brochures and chapter inserts handy and ready to share with local museums, events and shows.

7) Reach out to similar hobby groups, plan and deliver joint programs, events, trips.

- In your area, does membership in the NRHS, NMRA and similar interest groups overlap? Build on these relationships and reach out for joint events, such as a joint family picnic, co-sponsored excursion or tour.
- Have a joint operations night. You might learn something new, make a new friend or find a new member or two. Together, both groups will be stronger and reach more possible members.

The NRHS National team is taking several actions as well. Here's how those are going:

- *NRHS brochure.* - Jon Baake developed a nice product, and National gave out around 10,000, in batches of 100 brochures. Chapter representatives to the Advisory Council received them. So far, very few new memberships have come in. Please check with your chapter representative for copies, or to order more from National
- *NRHS advertising in "Trains" magazine* – An NRHS advertisement has run for several months. National has not yet received a reply attributable to that effort.
- *NRHS Facebook page.* – National's Facebook page has lots of followers and provides ****FREE**** advertising for

your chapter's meetings, events and news. Please submit items to Charles Williams <nrhsnews@charter.net> who is the editor of the *NRHS News* and also manages the NRHS Facebook page. News and articles are always welcome from local Chapters.

- *Reaching non-NRHS Readers* – The audience of the *NRHS News* extends beyond our membership; perhaps some even might be from your area. Younger people, internet and web savvy, may find the NRHS online. Are you reaching out to this group? The chapter and you need them for future growth. Even if someone does not seem a "joiner", reach out, talk up an interesting story, event or trip from your chapter and you might just get a new member or visitor.
- *Visitors Enjoy a Welcoming, Recognized Group* – The NRHS and its chapters are a widely recognized, established organization. New members and volunteers are typically drawn to known groups. A visitor, non-member or 'friend of a friend' occasionally Seek out these new faces, rather than just talking among your own group. How else will someone new find you?

It takes effort, persistence, and a welcoming, friendly presence to make the public aware, to get the word out and to share that you and your group have something to offer.

Many hobby and professional groups also face similar challenges in getting the word out and find new members, as well as retaining the interest of their current members. The National Flight Instructors group, Experimental Aircraft Association, IEEE, NMRA, the Museum of Transportation and other hobby as well as professional groups all are having the same discussion.

Most of all, each chapter must recognize the need and effort required to get the word to the general public – who the

chapter is, what you share and what you have to offer. Volunteer time is often the only cost to the chapter. It may seem difficult, but please do find volunteers then motivate, support and praise them. Give a bit of your time, encourage a friend or two, because no one else can achieve success for your chapter as you can. Others may help, but the chapter itself must reach out, put forth the effort and work to succeed and grow.

Upcoming Membership Poll

Submitted by Al Weber, President

Please be aware that you may be contacted by a volunteer who is doing member and lapsed member research. If you are contacted, please respond. Many ask me “why are you not doing this? or that?” When I ask if they will volunteer, they think I am asking too much. The core of the NRHS is volunteers and I appreciate all that they do.

2018 NRHS Election Overview

The NRHS is now soliciting nominations for all Officer and Board positions. The 2018 election is the fourth under the Bylaws previously adopted in 2011. The “Current NRHS Bylaws” (posted June 28, 2015) are available at <https://admin.nrhs.com/public/>. In this election the President and nine Board positions will be on the ballot. All positions will be four-year terms.

All NRHS members in good standing are eligible to run for any of the Officer and Board positions based on meeting the criteria set forth in the *NRHS Bylaws*, Article VII, Section 7. If a member desires to run for office and is qualified based on the criteria in the *NRHS Bylaws* Article VII, Section 7, the member must submit a nomination application to the NRHS Electoral Committee Chair no later than the end of business March 31, 2018. The nomination application is available online at <https://admin.nrhs.com>. Send

the nomination application form to NRHS Electoral Committee Chair, 3013 Heritage Landing Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185, or as an attachment to an email addressed to vp@nrhs.com. If you have any questions regarding qualifications for office, please contact Joseph C. Maloney Jr. vp@nrhs.com NRHS Vice President and Chair, 2018 NRHS Electoral Committee National Railway Historical Society, Inc.

Once nominations close on March 31, 2018, the Electoral Committee will create the ballot for each of the Districts. The membership mailing of the ballots will commence on or about June 1, 2018.

The election will close on August 1, 2018. All ballots must be postmarked no later than August 1, 2018 to be counted. Election shall be by a plurality of those votes legally cast.

Additional details, including election certification, notification of election results, and the seating of new Board of Directors, will be included in the approved, final 2018 Nominations Form and Instructions and will be available at the NRHS Admin website at <https://admin.nrhs.com/public/>

NRHS Telegraph Deadlines

The NRHS *Telegraph* is published in odd-numbered months, for a total of 6 issues annually.

Submissions should be text-only, and sent the month prior to the issue. Issues are distributed in PDF format. Files are available on the NRHS Admin website at <https://admin.nrhs.com/telegraph/>.

Upcoming issues and deadlines are:

- *May 2018* issue – April 20 deadline.
- *July 2018* issue – June 20 deadline.
- *September 2018* issue – August 20 deadline.
- *November 2018* issue – October 20 deadline.
- *January 2019* issue – December 20, 2018 deadline.

Please send news and articles to Valli Hoski, Editor, *NRHS Telegraph* at TelegraphVal@gmail.com

NRHS Telegraph is published by the National Railway Historical Society as news warrants. News is current at time of printing. Send all submissions to: **TELEGRAPHVAL@gmail.com**
Valli Hoski (North Texas Chapter), Editor
Ellen Pinsky (Iowa Chapter), Editorial Assistant.

Plans announced for spring conference in St. Louis May 30- June 3 – *UPDATE Information (in Italics)*

The St. Louis Chapter NRHS 2018 Spring Conference registration is now open. The form is available in the public section of the NRHS website. Registration cost is \$40.00 for member and spouse. (No meals included.) Please Note: Each NRHS member who wants to attend both the R&LHS annual meeting and the NRHS spring conference must go online using both links to print the registration forms. Each registration is processed separately. Be sure to mail the St. Louis Chapter NRHS registration form to the St. Louis address listed on the form.

*http://www.rlhs.org/Meetings/Current/2018_Registration.pdf
<http://www.admin.nrhs.com>*

The dates and times of the NRHS Fund, Advisory Council and Board of Director's meetings are listed on the registration form.

Some railroad history on the St. Louis Union Station to make it more inviting for you to come visit us. The Station opened on September 1, 1894 at a cost of \$6.5 million. It took just two years to construct. It included the Terminal Hotel (now Union Station Hotel) and railroad offices on the upper floors. An enormous single-span Train Shed of trusses covered 42 tracks. First train pulled in September 2, 1894 and last train pulled out October 31, 1978. The Grand Hall was the main waiting room for the Station, with the barrel vaulted ceiling at 65 feet high. Other interesting decorative attractions are the Allegorical Window, original stained glass from 1894, the Whispering Arch, the Gothic Corridor, the Commerce on the Landing mural, the Midway, the Terminal Hotel and the Atrium, a unique designed glass floor. Today the Union Station hosts a daily laser light show in the Grand Hall and a fire, water and laser show on the lake.

Save the dates Wednesday, May 30 to Sunday, June 3 on your calendars for what promises to be a great event. The St. Louis Chapter NRHS invites the board of directors, the advisory council and members to attend the NRHS Spring 2018 conference in conjunction with the Railway & Locomotive Historical Society (R&LHS), which will be holding its 2018 annual meeting in St. Louis.

The R&LHS annual meeting and NRHS conference hotel is the historic St. Louis Union Station Hotel, 1820 Market Street, St. Louis, MO 63103. For reservations, please contact the hotel directly, phone 314-231-1234. For the special group rate of \$139 per night, be sure to mention the event name "Railway and Locomotive Historical Society Annual Meeting." The room rate of \$139 is good for Sunday, June 3, with check out on Monday, June 4. The room rate of \$139 is also good for three (3) days preceding (Sunday May 27 through Tuesday May 29) the annual meeting and three (3) days succeeding (Monday June 4 through Wednesday June 6). Applicable state and local taxes are not included in the stated rates. We encourage members to make reservations now. The St. Louis Union Station Hotel room reservation cut-off date is May 2, 2018.

Parking rate is not included in room rate. Rates are \$27 for self-parking and \$38 for valet parking.

The St. Louis area is served by major airlines at the St. Louis Lambert International Airport (20 miles distant). Metrolink light rail service runs every 20 minutes from the airport to the Union Station stop, with transit time 29 minutes. Fare is \$4. Amtrak's downtown station is located approximately five blocks from the hotel entrance. There is no hotel shuttle service.

R&LHS is planning several events to take place. Finalized activities include:

- Tour of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library at the University of Missouri, St. Louis, the nation's premier railroad research library.
- Visit to the National Museum of Transportation.
- Visit to the Monticello Railway Museum in Monticello, Ill. A train trip is also planned.
- A circle train excursion tour of the Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis (TRRA) trackage, starting from St. Louis Union Station Hotel.
- Visit to the Union Pacific Railroad Intermodal Facility at Dupon, Ill.

The R&LHS registration package will include the above as well as three breakfasts and three dinners at the hotel, and three lunches on the road.

R&LHS is handling all registrations for its annual meeting. We encourage you to go to their website (<http://rlhs.org/Meetings/Current/>) for more information. The R&LHS registration is now open. Registration cost is \$395.00 per person.

As an NRHS member, you may register for both R&LHS meeting events and NRHS meetings, or you may register only for the NRHS meetings.

- To attend both the R&LHS annual meeting events and the NRHS meetings (board of directors, advisory council and NRHS Fund), please register with both R&LHS and St. Louis Chapter NRHS. R&LHS registration form is available now. *The St. Louis Chapter NRHS registration form is available now. Each group's registration is processed separately.*
- To attend only the NRHS meetings (board of directors, advisory council and NRHS Fund) without the R&LHS meetings, please register with the St. Louis Chapter NRHS. No exceptions.

We're looking forward to seeing you in St. Louis.

By Ron Gawedzinski, St. Louis Chapter Advisory Council Representative

Registration Form

(Held jointly with R&LHS Annual Convention, May 30 to June 2)

Name: _____ Member #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Contact EMAIL: _____ Cell Phone Number _____

Name Tag Information

Preferred Name on Name Tag: _____

Chapter Name: _____

Title: _____

Please indicate name of additional spouse from the same household:

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Conference registration fee -- \$40.00 for member and spouse. Total
(No meals included.) \$ _____

Note: Does not include registration for R&LHS Convention; to register for their convention activities please go to http://rlhs.org/Meetings/Current/2018_Registration.pdf.

Make checks payable to: **St. Louis Chapter NRHS.**

Mail check & form to: St. Louis Chapter NRHS; PO Box 220168, St. Louis, MO 63122-0168.

No refunds for cancellation of registrations will be issued after May 1, 2018.

NRHS Fund Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 2, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM, Advisory Council Meeting 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM, and BOD Meeting 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, Sunday, June 3, at St. Louis Union Station Hotel, 1820 Market St, St. Louis, MO 63103.

Are you registered for the R&LHS convention?.....Yes () No ()

St. Louis Union Station Hotel Room rate is \$139/night, mention "Railway & Locomotive Historical Society Annual Meeting", phone 314-231-1234 for reservations.

We encourage members to make reservations now.

Hotel rate available May 30 to June 3, as well as three days preceding May 27 through May 29 and three days succeeding June 4 through June 6. **Hotel room reservation cut-off date is May 2, 2018.**

Questions? Please contact Ron Gawedzinski – rwgawed@yahoo.com / 314-846-5559

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