

CALENDAR

May 30 – June 3, 2018

R&LHS Annual Meeting
in conjunction with
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

On March 28, 2018, Richard Anderson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Amtrak announced a policy change (see below). This change is both new and unexpected. I and many others have been working to get clarification and changes to this policy. Here is the policy as Amtrak delivered it to their employees.

Policy Changes

To all Amtrak employees:

Amtrak must operate a safe and reliable schedule for our customers. Our mission from Congress is clear: safely and efficiently operate our trains on schedule while minimizing federal subsidies. Therefore, we have implemented two significant changes in our business lines that are consistent with these two principles.

Charters and Special Trains

Generally, Amtrak will no longer operate charter services or special trains. These operations caused significant operational distraction, failed to capture fully allocated profitable margins and sometimes delayed our paying customers on our scheduled trains. There may be a few narrow exceptions to this policy in order to support specific strategic initiatives, for example trial service in support of growing new scheduled service. Otherwise, one-time trips and charters are immediately discontinued. We must narrow our focus to running a great core railroad: safe, on time, clean cars, friendly service and great customer-facing technology.

Automatic Discounts

Amtrak has eliminated distribution agreements with private company membership clubs which obtain significant discounts for free from Amtrak and then charge fees to their members for use of the Amtrak discount rates. Instead, we will use our revenue management system to sell targeted discounts to our customers throughout the year.

This week we are running a big Spring Sale to drive ridership through Amtrak.com. Please note that we continue our statutory discount programs for the disabled and seniors; we also have a generous discount program for active duty military members and their families.

Thank you, and please be safe.

Richard Anderson
President and Chief Executive Officer Amtrak
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This new direction significantly affects many of our chapters that have Amtrak excursions with private cars or run special trains. It also affects operations of private trains. Organizations may not be able to get cars for their special trains (seasonal trains, holiday trains, etc) as Amtrak will most likely not move the cars to their location. The new policy has already affected several special trains and car movements.

Many chapters promote railroad history by running special trains for the general public. Chapters also add private cars on normal Amtrak trains for chapter sponsored trips. These might not be available due to the policy change.

I urge you to have your chapter contact not only Amtrak but your US Congress Senators and Representatives expressing your opinion on this change.

Due to these efforts we have received a commitment from Amtrak to run one special train that had been told previously that it was canceled for 2018.

As always please feel free to contact me or any officer.

Al Weber <aweber@nrhs.com>

NRHS 2018 Convention Hotel News

Submitted by John Goodman, National
Convention Chairman

I expect reservations to be open by Saturday, April 21st. Watch NRHS.com for information that reservations are now open.

We are also very close to filling up our hotel. Please, if you haven't make your hotel reservations for our host hotel Ramada-downtown, phone them now to insure that you will be able to get that very low nightly rate of \$72.00 + tax.

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

Once the Ramada hotel is sold out, the nearest similar hotel in the Fairfield Inn & Suites which is about 3 blocks away. Their nightly rate is about \$150.00. We do not have any contract with them.

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

Change to R&LHS Annual Meeting Events Schedule

Submitted by Ron Gawedzinski, St. Louis
Chapter NRHS Advisory Council
Representative

For those NRHS members who have already registered or are planning to register for the R&LHS Annual Meeting in conjunction with the 2018 NRHS Spring Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, please be advised R&LHS has made the following change to their Gateway Rails Schedule. The tour of the John W. Barriger III National Railroad Library has been deleted and in its place will be a tour of the Melvin Price Lock and Dam on the Mississippi River.

NRHS Telegraph Deadlines

The NRHS *Telegraph* is published in odd-numbered months, for a total of 6 issues annually. In general, new deadline is the 15th of the month preceding the issue.

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:

- *July 2018* issue – June 15 deadline, 2018 deadline.
- *September 2018* issue – August 15, 2018 deadline.
- *November 2018* issue – October 15, 2018 deadline.
- *January 2019* issue – December 15, 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**
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