

CALENDAR

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 7 - 12, 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 Leadership Update

Submitted by Al Weber, President

Chapter officers, the national office needs your help. We are still trying to get all chapter officers into the database. Your list of officers is critical to this effort. Please send your list of officers to Bob Ernst (secretary@nrhs.com).

At the Board of Directors' meeting in St. Louis, I stressed the urgent need to contact Congress to save private rail car trips. This is very important and requires immediate action. Please ask your Chapter members to WRITE letters to Congressional Committee members as well as their (and your) Congressional Representative(s) and Senators. The list of Transportation Committee members and example letters are at http://rpca.com/webpages/Gov_Contacts.html

The need to save private railcar trips affects much more than a few "rich" people and their old passenger cars. Many more organizations, their members and their equipment are affected than you might think. NRHS chapters may have passenger cars that are used in their operations or by other rail organizations. Many railroad museums use those cars and depend upon rail trips/excursions to provide operating revenue and needed funding. You can petition Congress on matters that affect you; this certainly affects rail history and rail travel. Please write those who represent you in Congress today.

I get comments that "our chapter is no longer getting new members". Well, what are chapters that are getting new members doing that we are not? One, getting out into the community and telling others about railroad history. Chapters that have an outreach program are getting new members. It maybe not a big program but just getting your meeting date and location in the local paper is sometimes enough. Most if not all media outlets are always looking for content. Send it to them! I read all the chapter newsletters that are sent to national. Many of them have items that a local news organization would love to tell their listeners or readers about. It is usually well received and sometimes they even ask for follow-up from YOU.

When someone comes to your meeting or event, welcome him or her warmly. Make them feel wanted and included. Ask for their name and address, and provide a NRHS brochure or your newsletter to take home. Follow-up contact is important too - a member should email or phone the person and continue the outreach.

Please email me (aweber@nrhs.com) or call me (636) 577-5636 with questions, concerns or matters/ideas for the national NRHS staff.

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NRHS 2018 Membership Election Underway

Election nominations closed on March 31, 2018. The Electoral Committee created the ballot for each of the Districts. The membership mailing of the ballots was sent Friday, May 25, 2018.

Each ballot is accompanied by an official return envelope. Only ballots returned in this envelope will be considered official ballots and counted. Ballots returned in any other envelope will not be counted and will be discarded. Ballots may be in another shipping envelope such as a UPS or FedEx envelope as long as the ballot is sealed in the official return envelope provided.

The election closes 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.

The results will be certified by the General Counsel of the NRHS and the Electoral Committee in late August, 2018. Winners of the election will be contacted by the NRHS Electoral Committee Chair once the vote has been certified. Results will be available on the NRHS website and will be published in the *NRHS News* and *NRHS Telegraph* after vote certification and notification to candidates.

The new Board of Directors will be seated at the 2018 Fall Conference. The last scheduled meeting of the current Board is at the National Convention in August, 2018 in Cumberland, MD. The current Board remains in position until the seating of the new Board.

The Electoral Committee is responsible for the entire election process which includes the approval of qualifications of candidates, and oversight of the election process to assure that schedules and procedures adhere to the NRHS Bylaws and the laws of the State of Maryland.

More details are included in the approved, final 2018 Nominations Form and Instructions, available on the NRHS Admin website at <https://admin.nrhs.com/public/>

NRHS 2018 Convention Ticket Update

Submitted by John Goodman, National Convention Chairman

As of June, 5 2018, The Wednesday trip (August 18, 2018) on the Cass-Salamander train is completely sold out. No extra coaches can be added. Space is available on all of the other trips. The Sunday trip (final of the convention) over the Western Maryland Scenic is a luncheon trip and limited space is still available.

The Potomac Eagle trip is sold out for first class, but coach space is still available. The same for the Everett steam trip which still has space available. The banquet has over 100 people registered, but still has space available.

The Ramada hotel is sold out. The Fairfield Inn and Suites hotel is three blocks away from the Ramada, but its rate is about \$150.00 a night. Driving to Cumberland? A few miles out of town, the brand new Doubletree hotel has a favorable nightly rate.

New Financial Reporting Requirements

Submitted by Bob Heavenrich, Comptroller

On August 18, 2018, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) will publish a major overhaul to the accounting rules for not-for-profit organizations that have audited financial statements prepared by CPAs. The release is ASU No. 2016-14, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Presentation of Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities.

The objective of the standard is to provide more useful information to donors, grantors and other users of not-for-profit financial statements.

It represents the first major set of changes to non profit reporting requirements in over 20 years, and simplifies and improves how a not-for-profit organization classifies its net assets, as well as the information it presents in financial statements and notes about its liquidity, financial performance, and cash flows

By enhancing the disclosures in the notes, not-for-profits will be better able to communicate their financial performance and condition to their stakeholders while also reducing certain costs and complexities in preparing their financial statements.

The new standard also requires improved presentation and disclosures to help not-for-profits provide more relevant information about their resources (and the changes in those resources) to donors, grantors, creditors, and other users.

These include qualitative and quantitative requirements in the following areas:

- Net Asset Classes
- Investment Return
- Expenses
- Liquidity and Availability of Resources
- Operating Cash Flows.

The standard is effective for annual financial statements issued for fiscal years beginning

after December 15, 2017, and for interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018.

Chapters which have audited financial statements prepared are encouraged to discuss the new standards with their CPA firm.

There are a number of helpful sources available for free on the internet including an Excel template available and webinars. Each webinar is about an hour long.

The sources are available at:

<https://fmaonline.net/fasbread/>

<https://nonprofitquarterly.org/2018/05/22/new-fasb-nonprofit-accounting-guidelines-whats-next-implementation-strategies-tips-success/>

It should be noted that IRS has not yet included the new standard in its requirements for form 990 which non profits are required to file.

Free NRHS *Bulletin* Issues for Chapter Public Relations

Submitted by Jeff Smith, NRHS *Bulletin* Editor

Last year we made several offers of free magazines for chapter public relations. The inventory is substantially reduced, with less than 50 copies of all issues 2005-present. This year I am looking to further reduce the inventory to only 10 copies of each issue.

We are offering boxes of 50 or 100 magazines to any NRHS chapter that wants them for chapter public relations. Each box will contain an assortment of issues. Boxes of 50 will contain at least two different issues (perhaps more); each box of 100 will contain at least 4 different issues (perhaps more).

The objective is to put these magazines to use in marketing of the society rather than sending to recycling. Please reach out to Jeff Smith (bulletin@nrhs.com) if you want to receive one or more boxes of magazines. Please provide shipping address, and how many magazines to send. They are provided free of charge. National pays for the shipping.

Members' Matters

Submitted by Hugh R. Harris, Membership Administrator

Our Society is finally growing again! Current membership is 5,023 current, paid-up members and we have at least 242 new members signed up since the beginning of the year.

The Chapter List is converted to a "Radio Button" list that permits only one entry per member. This may be unpopular with members who enjoy their memberships in multiple chapters, but it is important for the Society to define the Home Chapter for each member. That is where their vote is recorded in the elections for Directors and Officers. We have to send out multiple different ballot forms. In order to know where each type must go, we must have a list that shows the Home Chapters.

I will discuss with the database company how we can record the other chapters that members may have joined.

I apologize to the Board and to the Advisory Council. I was not able to make the meeting in St. Louis and I will not be able to make the Convention in Cumberland. My wife and I are moving from Indiana to Arkansas this summer and I just can't take the time for those meetings.

The new database at NeonCRM is working well and has many features that we are not yet using. We'll be learning about more of these over the next year or so and hope to have several in use by later this year. Our Secretary, Bob Ernst, has begun the process of entering chapters as 'Organizations' within the database so we can properly record and update chapter's officers. Hopefully, we'll be able to coordinate that with the website to ensure that our on-line information will be more current than in the past.

Please remember that I'm no further away than e-mail (membership@nrhs.com or hugrharris@aol.com) or phone (765-669-1313.). My preferred communication method is e-mail since I am very hard-of-hearing and

find the phone difficult to use.

If any of you need Chapter Membership lists from the National Records please let me know. I'll always respond usually within a day; this summer it may take two days. Please let me know about any help I can give.

NRHS *Telegraph* Deadlines

The NRHS *Telegraph* is published in odd-numbered months, for a total of 6 issues annually. In general, the 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 deadlines for future issues of the NRHS *Telegraph* are listed below:

- *September 2018* volume 48, number 5 – August 15, 2018 deadline.
- *November 2018* volume 48, number 6 – October 15, 2018 deadline.
- *January 2019* volume 49, number 1 – December 15, 2018 deadline.
- *March 2019* volume 49, number 2 – February 15, 2019 deadline.
- *May 2019* volume 49, number 3 – April 15, 2019 deadline.
- *July 2019* volume 49, number 4 – June 15, 2019 deadline.

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

NRHS Meeting Postings

NRHS Meeting notices, announcements including Bylaws, Policies, Meetings, and Approved Financial Documents are in the public directory at <https://admin.nrhs.com/>.

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