

## CALENDAR

### October 11 - 13, 2018

2018 NRHS Fall Conference  
Advisory Council and Board of  
Directors' Meetings  
Scranton, PA  
[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

### March 21-23, 2019

2019 NRHS Spring Conference  
Birmingham, AL  
[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

### May 7 - 11, 2019

2019 NRHS Convention  
Salt Lake City UT  
[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

### November 8 - 9, 2019

2019 NRHS Fall Conference  
Dallas, TX  
[www.nrhs.com](http://www.nrhs.com)

## NRHS Leadership Update

Submitted by Al Weber, President

Since taking the office of the NRHS President, I receive many chapter newsletters! Keep them coming, please. Electronically via email is the best way for me. I try to read each one. I do send comments if it concerns NRHS National. When I was a regional vice president and later a district director, I made it one of my tasks to join each of the chapters that I represented. By getting their newsletters, I could represent them in the best way possible and relay their concerns and questions to NRHS National.

Most chapters think that they are only writing to their local members. However, chapter newsletters that are electronically sent (e.g. email) are distributed very widely via newsletter exchanges with other chapters. For example, the St. Louis chapter participates in newsletter exchanges with other chapters. Please consider having your chapter join one of the many newsletter exchanges.

I have asked all the NRHS National district directors to contact their chapters so you should have heard from them already. Please consider adding them to your chapter newsletter distribution list and maybe asking them to join your chapter if they are not already a chapter member.

Once our new web server is debugged, I intend to offer each chapter a place to store their newsletters electronically for all to see. I hope to scan old printed chapter newsletters and store them out on the new server. For many years, NRHS National stored printed newsletters but they are very hard to research. These newsletters need be on the web to highlight chapter history and provide easier access to all who are interested. More on this later.

A recent chapter newsletter raised the concern of a long time chapter losing their newsletter editor. I have been reading that chapter's newsletter for many years. It included local news about trains, preservation and events along with chapter activities. The chapter is a smaller chapter with aging members. I cannot stress how important your newsletter is to your members. It keeps your group informed, up to date and gets your chapter noticed by others. They may even join! I know of one national train group that lost their editor and one year later they are no longer in existence. Many chapter newsletters are monthly; others are issued quarterly and semi-annually. For 20+ years, a local Midwest chapter's newsletters come out quarterly and I look forward to each issue. (Continued on page 2.)

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Also, we have several chapters that do not have enough members to survive. They are not big enough to even have meetings, newsletters or events. We all need to help those chapters by reaching out to them and helping them find new local members. What if someone at an event expresses interest but they are not "local". As a courtesy, ask if another chapter may contact them.

Chapter editorials often ask a common question – how to attract new members. How about putting a display on railroad history in your local library? Most libraries have a monthly display and are always looking for something new. Include a sign of where you meet and the time. Many chapters have started doing this and are getting interest in chapter activities.

Many chapters are in college towns. Put your chapter's next meeting and program in the college's newspaper. Often, this is free or at minimal cost. College students can become or perhaps are already members. We have many in the NRHS now.

Many chapters are getting new members and growing. They share what they are doing and invite interested people to come

attend their meetings. One good way to reach fellow rail enthusiasts is to write something for the *NRHS News* about what your chapter is doing or has done. Please email ([aweber@nrhs.com](mailto:aweber@nrhs.com)) or call me (636) 577-5636 with questions, concerns, matters and ideas for the NRHS National staff.

### **2019 Convention Hotel Update**

Submitted by John Goodman, National Convention Coordinator

The NRHS has booked 400 more room nights for our 2019 Utah convention from May 7-11, 2019 at the Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown, 215 W South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. The rate is \$149.00 per night + taxes. We sold out the first 500 room nights very quickly. The nightly rate will be available from May 4 through May 14, 2019 (3 days before and 3 days after the close of the convention).

### **Trains Preservation Award Proposals Due Oct. 15, 2018**

Through October 15 2018, *Trains Magazine* is accepting proposals for a \$10,000 preservation award. The grant will be awarded to a U.S. or Canadian non-profit educational group for the restoration or repair of an important locomotive, unique rolling stock, or for archives.

Projects of regional or national significance are preferred, and the grant must make a significant impact. Projects nearing completion are also preferred. The awarded funds must be spent by December 31, 2019.

Proposals must not exceed 200 words, include a basic project budget and up to five images. Applications may be emailed to [presaward@trainsmag.com](mailto:presaward@trainsmag.com) or mailed to *Trains Preservation Award*, P.O. Box 1612, Waukesha, WI 53187.

On November 10, 2018, Editor Jim Wrinn will announce the winner at the Heritage Rail Alliance annual meeting in Santa Fe, NM and on *Trains News Wire*. The winner will be profiled in the *Trains* January 2019 issue.

## NRHS Contact List

Submitted by Al Weber, President

To help you contact the NRHS, here are the specific email addresses that will get your request directly to the best person or committee. Please use these if your request falls into their area. This will reduce the time for a response and help the NRHS to get back to you and your question quickly.

The NRHS National Office has a general email address <[info@nrhs.com](mailto:info@nrhs.com)>.

However, email must be directed to one of the many volunteers that help the NRHS. That increases the time to get back to you and answer your question or request.

### NRHS Officers

- President: Al Weber <[aweber@nrhs.com](mailto:aweber@nrhs.com)>
- NRHS Vice President <[vp@nrhs.com](mailto:vp@nrhs.com)>
- NRHS Secretary <[secretary@nrhs.com](mailto:secretary@nrhs.com)>
- NRHS Treasurer <[treasurer@nrhs.com](mailto:treasurer@nrhs.com)>

### NRHS Publications

- *NRHS Bulletin* <[bulletin@nrhs.com](mailto:bulletin@nrhs.com)>
- *NRHS News* <[nrhsnews@charter.net](mailto:nrhsnews@charter.net)>
- *NRHS Telegraph* <[telegraphval@gmail.com](mailto:telegraphval@gmail.com)>
- *NRHS Extra* <[nrhsnewsextra@nrhs.com](mailto:nrhsnewsextra@nrhs.com)>

### NRHS committees, other specific contact

- Membership questions (individual and chapter): NRHS Membership <[membership@nrhs.com](mailto:membership@nrhs.com)>
- Conventions: [Conventions@NRHS.com](mailto:Conventions@NRHS.com)
- General Counsel: John Fiorilla <[gc@nrhs.com](mailto:gc@nrhs.com)>
- Inspector General: Inspector General <[ighotline@nrhs.com](mailto:ighotline@nrhs.com)>
- Historic Grants: Historic Grants Committee <[grants@nrhs.com](mailto:grants@nrhs.com)>
- Information research: Research Volunteers <[research@nrhs.com](mailto:research@nrhs.com)>
- NRHS Fund: Wes Weis <[Wweis@mikabcorp.com](mailto:Wweis@mikabcorp.com)>
- NRHS RailCamp <[railcampnrhs@yahoo.com](mailto:railcampnrhs@yahoo.com)>
- NRHS Web site: Web Master <[webmaster@nrhs.com](mailto:webmaster@nrhs.com)>

## Urgent Response Needed to Amtrak Policy Change

Submitted by Al Weber, President

This is a plea to chapters to get their members to write to Amtrak and their congressional representatives about the new Amtrak policy. These new policies are having a significant impact on passenger rail outside of the Northeast corridor and some state funded passenger rail service.

We need to write letters to Congress to stop this policy, and return to a national passenger rail service. Many railroad groups have offered to work with Amtrak on changing their policies, but to no avail. We must urge Congress to act and direct Amtrak management to support and maintain a truly national passenger railroad network.

The NRHS is one of the largest groups of rail enthusiasts. I know that around one thousand letters have been written. A letter to your local Congressional office will be read.

I mean a real letter via the US Post Office, not an email or phone call.

### Chapter Officer Data Needed

Reminder for all Chapters - NRHS National is building a chapter leadership database with all chapter officers. Please send your officer list to Bob Ernst ([secretary@nrhs.com](mailto:secretary@nrhs.com)).

### Attracting New Members

Submitted by Al Weber, President

To get new members, you must tell the world that you exist! Several chapters, including the St. Louis Chapter, attend many events and help with community projects. It takes some time and effort, but it is rewarding to find and get new members. Garden clubs, car shows, company picnics, other local events, meetings and groups are great places to discover new members.

Consider giving rail safety programs, such as Operation Lifesaver at libraries, schools, churches, city events and colleges. Libraries are always looking for a one month display. Do one! Be sure to mention what your chapter does, when and where you meet.

Most chapters already have original programs, often of local interest or about local history. Offer to present these programs at the library and share your local interest stories with their patrons.

Use the NRHS National brochure to market your own chapter. Make a concise, one page chapter flyer and insert it inside the NRHS National brochure. Include your chapter's name, meeting location, but also attract interest with highlights of recent events or programs. Look at the back of the brochure; stamp or paste key chapter info in the space available there. Many chapters are currently doing this successfully. Contact Jeff Smith for old *NRHS Bulletins* to give out at the events (soon, before all the old issues are gone or discarded).

Contact student newsletters in area or local colleges. Include chapter announcements, events, and items of interest for the students and faculty. Reach out to engineering, history, technology clubs. College students are interested in everything, so why not give them a lead on railroad history?

How about contacting the local newspaper and radio stations about an event? How about a "local events" website or Facebook page (including Facebook pages devoted to railroads in your region) ... give visibility to your meeting time, place and the subject of your show or programs. They always look for content and news of local interest. No content, no readers/listeners. The work is minimal for you. To start, contact local media in writing rather than a phone call or email. No action guarantees zero results!

## **Chapter Outreach - Practical Tips**

Submitted by Al Weber, President

I just answered a common email from a chapter officer. "There are only a few of us left in the chapter, how do we get new members?"

*I asked what they do as a chapter?*

They do the typical chapter activities - meetings, a newsletter and a table at local train shows.

At meetings, they show videos, photos and have an occasional guest speaker.

*I asked how do they tell the local area about an event?*

They really do not advertise or have a plan on telling other than their own members about their meetings. What to do?

- You need a basic plan, not complex, not costly.
- Someone who will write and send a letter to the local paper. About a week in advance, announce the meeting location, program, speaker or other meeting activity.
- A free bulletin board is often available at most local libraries, grocery stores, hobby shops. Put your chapter flyer on display – it is free advertising! Replace it with a new one periodically. Highlight any upcoming special programs seasonal activities or outings.
- Small local news organizations are always looking for local current events. Submit your chapter's information and they will get your story out to the local community.
- Always welcome new (and old) visitors and guests who come to a meeting. Extend a friendly welcome, invite them to sit with you and enjoy the program. Follow up with a letter and a copy of the *NRHS Bulletin* (just ask, extras are available). Invite them to come back, suggest they become a member of the group.
- Add visitors and potential members to your newsletter mailing list. Email your newsletter? The only cost is for someone to update your email list regularly.
- At the local train show or railfest, put a display of railroad artifacts on your table. Greet the public, share the story of why you are in railroad history preservation and how it matters to future generations. Ask them to get involved and join the NRHS.

*I asked if they had a web site?*

The answer was no, but they had talked about it. Is it difficult? How to start

one and get it going?

- A chapter web site is not difficult or costly to make. A web page with a) chapter meeting location, b) schedule of upcoming events, and c) contact list is clear and informative.
- You may also find help through a local high school or library to build that simple site. Use the internet to tell the world about your chapter.

### ***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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 are listed below:

- *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](mailto:TelegraphVal@gmail.com)

### **NRHS Meeting Postings**

NRHS Meeting notices, Bylaws, Policies, Meetings, and Approved Financial Documents are 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.