

## Minutes from Friday, September 12, 2025 NPRHA Membership Meeting

Present: Steve Joyner, Bill Zidel, Tim Trudnowski, Don Golde, Steve Fuller, Dean O'Neill

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by President Tim.

- Approval of Everett Membership Meeting minutes.
- President Tim explained that all the necessary required reporting for the NPRHA is in the back in a packet and available to all.
- Tim also explained that he would be running the election for the expiring board seats.
- Dean O'Neill initiated a great discussion concerning membership as we are all aware of declining numbers. This problem is resident in many organizations and if is a problem not only of attrition but also of population dynamics. How do you entice someone to become a member of an historical society representing a railroad that last turned a wheel over 55 years ago. Dean is working on a program that would entice people to join the NPRHA society. There ensued a lively discussion on several ways that could help the organization. Ther is the realization that an organization of aged individuals will need to find the key that will reach the younger audience. In closing out the discussion dean offered to develop some type of annual report that could be posted to the NPRHA.
- President Tim moved to elections for the 5 seats that were up for election in 2025. The first seat was seat number 1 which was currently occupied by the NPRHA Secretary, Bill Zidel. Bill requested to stand again for 2 years and he was reelected. The next seat was seat number 2 which was currently occupied by the Steve Joyner. Steve requested to stand again for 2 years and he was reelected. The third seat was seat number 3 which was currently occupied by the NPRHA President, Tim Trudnowski. Tim requested to stand again for 2 years and he was reelected. The fourth seat was seat number 4 which was currently occupied by the John Nemnich. John requested to stand again for 2 years and he was reelected. The final seat was

seat number 5 which was currently occupied by the Mod Com Chair Dean O'Neill. Dean requested to stand again for 2 years and he was reelected

- Harold Shannon was present to talk about the great work of the Grants Committee. The Grants Committee has evolved over the years and the NPRHA has increased the grant amount and the interaction has been great. Harold pointed out how great it was to receive feedback on an NPRHA Grant and to see the tangible results of the issuing NPRHA Grants. Harold also reminded members about entering the NPRHA in your will and/or sending in donations earmarked for the NPRHA Grants program. Truly a success and in large part to the work that Harold and his Grants Committee have accomplished.
- Dean O'Neill spent some time talking about conventions. The committee put out a survey on future sites and the following results based on the most popular site being first. Superior/Duluth, Lewiston, ID., Helena, Yellowstone. While not on the original list, Portland, OR is another possibility.
- Doug Shearer talked about next year's convention in Toppenish. Everything falling into place and the dates are September 15<sup>th</sup> thru the 1<sup>st</sup>. Very nice accommodations and the Depot and museum are getting ready.
- Dean O'Neill continued with a report on the modeling committee. Dean's very successful VDP package has brought in over \$28,000 and with the new 4-year option and very reasonable pricing along with a massive amount of information provided on the accompanying thumb drive. The results have provided capital for several mod-com projects. Rapido cars to include the famous wood chip cars as well as a plethora of box cars. The cars and the VDP being very popular sale items in the convention store.
- Dean's next discussion was on the NPRHA Website. Dean and several others continue their quest in enhancing the website as not only a face to the organization, but also a tool for two-way conversation, research, and a more active interface with the research

an historical community. How can we do email blasts, putting some of our media on line such as our professional calendar or the Mainstreeter.

- Next up is volunteerism. There are some many places to look for volunteers and to employ novel approaches such as engaging with labor unions, professionals for volunteering.
- MTM and the Jackson Street roundhouse where the NPRHA files reside are in a state of transition. Dean recently met with Todd, MTM, MacCulloch, GNHS, Tim Trudnowski, NPRHA. Possibility of future alternate site, which is a building adjacent to the Roundhouse as a potential location for moving the files and becoming a research location. More space and better environment than the roundhouse. Again, the question of where to come up with interested volunteers to staff the location.
- Meeting Adjourned at 10:35 AM and we moved to the raffle which was very successful. Our floor proceeds from the raffle were \$825.

Submitted by Bill Zidel, Secretary NPRHA