

## **Board Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – September 18, 2016 – Wallace, Idaho**

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 8:05 AM. Board Members present: Dahlman, Frissell, Makins, Shearer, Woodward, and Zidel. Also present: Don Golde, who will join the Board for 2017 and 2018. Absent: Sullivan, Vogel, and Zieska

Proceeds related to the Wallace Convention: From Sale of Jack Christensen's watercolors: \$500 for the Wallace Depot picture that was given to the Museum, \$525 for the Butte picture, \$777 for the Missoula picture. Mail-in Raffle ticket sales totaled \$1500. Raffle tickets sold at the Banquet were \$1077. Total was \$4379.

NPRHA email sent to Bill Zidel should go to [bzidel@comcast.net](mailto:bzidel@comcast.net). Do not send email to his work email address.

Email addresses for the other members of the Board:

Alan Dahlman: [alan.dahlman@gmail.com](mailto:alan.dahlman@gmail.com)

Chris Frissell: [leakinmywaders@yahoo.com](mailto:leakinmywaders@yahoo.com)

Don Golde: [dwgolde@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dwgolde@sbcglobal.net)

Bob Makins: [robert.makins@comcast.net](mailto:robert.makins@comcast.net)

Doug Shearer: [dwshearer@centurylink.net](mailto:dwshearer@centurylink.net)

Jim Woodward: [woodwardej@cs.com](mailto:woodwardej@cs.com)

Ken Zieska: [mhry19@gmail.com](mailto:mhry19@gmail.com)

Questions for the Board to ponder:

What can we do to improve planning for and executions of Conventions? Please look at <http://www.nprha.org/Association%20Documents/NPRHAConventionPlanningGuideRev13D.pdf> and email comments or suggestions for improvement to Bill Zidel and the other members of the Board.

Use of a spreadsheet or similar document, that covers all the aspects of the Convention as described in the Convention Planning Guide, helps to ensure complete and adequate planning for the Convention. The first version of this document should be produced at least 18 months prior to the Convention and it should be updated on at least a quarterly basis, until the convention occurs.

Should NPRHA have a Convention Chairman and/or standing Convention Committee to coordinate and evaluate potential convention sites, as well as timing and length of individual Conventions several (at least three) years in advance?

Should we look at the NPRHA membership by location (perhaps sort by ZIP Code) to attempt to see where our membership is concentrated? This could help in placing at least some of the future conventions in locations with large numbers of members.

How many days should Conventions last? It depends in part of the location of the Convention, which sometimes influences the availability of train rides, tours, museum visits, etc.

Should we adjust the order of the Convention to hold the Swap Meet and/or Modeling Presentations at the beginning (presumably on a weekend) rather than at the end of the Convention?

Should NPRHA use "profits" from past conventions to reduce the room prices at hotels for future convention?

Should NPRHA provide assistance or incentives to younger members to foster their attendance at conventions? Could we provide room rent to entice some younger members to attend the conventions? Could we facilitate room-sharing?

Should we advertise the Modeling presentations and/or Swap Meets?

How should we publish Convention Presentations – DVDs? On the NPRHA Web site? On other social media sites?

We should suggest that Convention Presenters ask their audiences to hold questions until the end of the presentation. There's a reasonable likelihood that some questions will be answered by the remainder of the presentation. This will also provide greater assurance that the presenter will have adequate time to cover their topic. Cell phones should be set to vibrate or turned off during presentations.

If possible, all conventions should have a separate room for display of Models. This helps to confine modeling related conversations that sometimes disturb or disrupt Presentations, especially when models are displayed in the same room that is used for Presentations. Also, if possible, modeling Presentations should not be held during the Swap Meet, even if both occur on the same day. This enables all participants to attend both parts of the Convention. And if possible, the Banquet should include availability of a Bar.

We should investigate ways to make Convention presentations available after the convention. For some presentations, this might be done via translation into an article in *The Mainstreeter*. For as many as possible, it should also involve production of DVDs, and/or making a video available on <http://www.nprha.org/Pages/Home.aspx>. In some cases, especially those involving content of yet to be published books, this may not be possible. Bill Zidel will discuss this topic with Ed Sherry. Perhaps NPRHA should suggest that some presenters consider publishing a book covering the topic of their presentation.

We might consider conducting feedback surveys on Presentations, to be shared with the Presenter. We might also consider a feedback survey on the overall convention, to be passed out during the Banquet, or whatever event ends the Convention. If so, these must include an appeal for suggestions to improve future conventions. They might also ask if the audience would like hear/see more information on the topic, as well as asking if members of the audience have additional information on the topic to share in the future. Bill Zidel will propose a form for this survey. In some cases, we might ask that Presentations be repeated at future conventions.

After discussion of the situation, Bob Makins moved that the following be named as NPRHA Officers for 2016-2017. Second by Shearer.

President – Bill Zidel

Vice President – Ken Zieska

Secretary – Jim Woodward

Treasurer – Ken Vogel – transitioning to Don Golde. We must ensure that an independent audit of NPRHA Financial Records occurs as part of this transition.

Vote was unanimous among Board Members present to accept this slate.

Future Conventions:

- More discussion followed about the possibility of holding the 2018 Convention in Chehalis - Centralia, Washington. Bill Zidel commented that a group has proposed that site for 2018 and that he has asked them to provide a formal detailed written proposal, similar to the one that Paul Anderson put together for the 2017 Duluth Convention. We'll see what develops.
- There was also discussion about the proposal for a joint Convention with UPHS and/or MRHA for 2018. Bill Zidel expressed reservations that the NPRHA might get "lost" in a Convention of that size. However, if no one steps forward to do a Convention in 2018, we might consider it. Bill Zidel also expressed reservations about holding a Convention in Tacoma, citing high lodging cost and transportation issues. Chehalis - Centralia could also be a good location for a joint convention with the SP&S Group. We had a joint NP – SP&S Convention in Portland in 2002.

- Yellowstone (Mammoth) is the leading contender for the 2019 Convention, with Jim Dick and the Taylors currently leading that effort. We need to get a concrete plan, including a firm hotel proposal, together by the end of 2016 in order for that to occur. This would likely occur in the first two weeks of September (just after Labor Day).

Potential Grants:

- Gary Tarbox will be working with both of the folks at Foss regarding a possible grant to support their work.
- We are still waiting for a written proposal regarding a possible grant to support work to make SD-45 #3617 fully operational to pull a train on the Skally for the 2017 Duluth Convention. If #3617 is not available, we can probably still get a train ride on the Skally. But we need a firm commitment, including a signed contract, to make it work.

Adjournment moved by Woodward, second by Makins. Voted to adjourn at 9:19 AM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA