

Board Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – September 12, 2017 – Duluth, Minnesota

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 8:45 PM. Board Members present: Golde, Shearer, Woodward, Zidel, and Zieska. Makins was at the Convention hotel, but was ill and did not attend the meeting. Dahlman, Frissell, and Hillard did not attend the meeting.

We discussed the following topics:

Disposition of approximately 21 Jack Christensen watercolor paintings that Bill Zidel currently owns or will purchase from Sally Vogel: All will be donated to the NPRHA as the Vogel/Zidel Collection. In order to facilitate display of these paintings, NPRHA could then donate the paintings to organizations such as the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, Northern Pacific Railway Museum at Toppenish, Railroad Depot Museum in Ritzville, Spokane Public Library's Northwest Room, Northern Pacific Depot in Wallace, Montana Historical Society in Helena, Livingston Depot Center, North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum in Bismarck, Lake Superior Railroad Museum in Duluth, and other entities which have permanent or rotating exhibits of art that relates to railroading or industry. *Additional post-meeting comments from the Secretary: There are also well-established local museums in smaller towns such as Big Timber, Three Forks, and Whitehall, Montana that would be quite likely to display paintings depicting nearby locations. Bill Zidel will provide a list of the subjects/locations of the Christensen paintings to help us match paintings to nearby museums or organizations. It would be helpful if Bill could also furnish photos of each of the paintings that we could use in discussions with potential recipients. Board Members are encouraged to provide names of museums or organizations with which they are familiar. If possible, Board Members should consult appropriate people at the museums to ensure that they are willing to display the paintings, either permanently or as part of a rotating display. Please send suggestions to Jim Woodward, who will compile a list of museums. This list could also be used to help distribute photos, paintings, or artifacts held by other NPRHA Members. Note that display of a painting or photograph is much more likely to occur if it is mounted in a relatively high quality frame, preferably glazed with materials such as UV3-coated Plexiglas or Denglas UV to minimize potential for fading due to UV exposure.*

Upcoming Conventions:

- 2018: Chehalis/Centralia, Washington – Bill Zidel has most of the arrangements completed for this event, including hotel and train ride, which will occur in early September 2018 – probably September 12 – 15, 2018. Bill will furnish details by the end of October 2017.
- 2019: We will pursue Medora, ND for the 2019 convention, with Helena or Missoula as backups. Bill Zidel will contact the gentleman who proposed Medora earlier. ***Note that we must ensure that most Medora businesses will be open on the dates we intend to hold the convention, since they may tend to shut down soon after the end of August.***
- 2020: We will pursue Brainerd, MN.
- 2021: Missoula or Helena, if not used in 2019. We most recently had conventions in Missoula in 1996 and in Helena in 2000. Sandpoint might also be a possibility, if we can find a time when the room rates would be low.
- Other possibilities include Hinckley, MN or the Minneapolis – St Paul area.

Transition of Treasurer Role from Dave Hilliard to Don Golde is proceeding smoothly so far. In the past year, NPRHA accounts at multiple banks have been consolidated, several credit cards have been closed, and financial records have been moved to Quicken. Over the coming year, the transition to Don Golde will be completed.

There are no lingering issues from the 2016 Convention in Wallace, Idaho.

We will use a raffle to assign seats in the dome car on the September 15, 2017 train ride from Duluth to Two Harbors. Raffle tickets will cost \$5 per ticket, with proceeds going to NPRHA. 24 winners will receive seats from

Duluth to Two Harbors; another 24 winners will receive seats from Two Harbors to Duluth. *It turned out that we sold exactly 48 tickets, so all who purchased a ticket received an opportunity to ride in the dome car.*

Number of NPRHA Board Members will remain at nine for 2017-2018. Alan Dahlman and Chris Frissell will retire from the Board after the 2017 Convention. Dave Hillard, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, and Ken Zieska will complete their current terms after the 2017 Convention; all four will stand for re-election at Membership Meeting on September 16, 2017. Dean O'Neill and Harold Shannon have been identified as candidates for election to the Board at the Membership meeting. Terms of Don Golde, Bob Makins and Doug Shearer will end after the 2018 Convention. Subject to Board agreement at the September 17, 2017 meeting, Zidel will remain at President, Zieska at Vice President, and Woodward at Secretary. As mentioned earlier, Treasurer will transition from Hillard to Golde.

Timing of Conventions: Mid-September still seems to be a good time for conventions, with lower room costs and cooler (but not cold) weather. However, timing may sometimes be influenced by possibilities of cooperation with other railroad historical groups, as well as seasonal availability of some potential venues. The Board will continue to monitor timing as we see results of the 2017, 2018, and future conventions.

Dean O'Neill has published minutes of Board and Membership meetings for 2014 – 2016 at the NPRHA web site - <http://www.nprha.org/Association%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. We need to take similar action with the minutes from 2013.

Back Issues of *The Mainstreeter* – Ken Zieska suggested that we ship back issues to the East Archive at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St Paul, with fulfillment of future orders of back issues to be handled by East Archive personnel. In addition, we should consider copying content of groups of back issues onto a series of CDs or DVDs as PDFs, so that future orders for back issues could be fulfilled by shipping one or more CDs. This would facilitate recycling of multiple paper copies of back issues that currently result in substantial storage cost. Some could also be given to museums or libraries in towns along the routes of the NP, especially copies of issues that relate to equipment or buildings that may be on display at or near that location. We also receive full sets back from the estates of past members. Note that NPRHA should retain at least one full set of paper copies of *The Mainstreeter* – perhaps one full set at Jackson Street and one set at PNRA. Ken Zieska will write up a proposal on this issue for future consideration by the NPRHA Board.

Membership Development: The Burlington Route Historical Society allows non-members to attend Annual Conventions without joining their Society, simply by paying \$10 in addition to the cost of Convention registration. This arrangement does not include a subscription to the BRHS publication. They have found that a significant number of persons who attend the Convention via this arrangement later decide to invest in a full BRHS membership. Perhaps NPRHA should consider a similar arrangement. Ken Zieska will write up a proposal on this issue for future consideration by the NPRHA Board.

East & West Archives: Ken Zieska has been working to resolve some of the issues at Jackson Street, with some success. Some newer equipment for scanning and newer computers for storage can help the situation – Ken Zieska is pursuing that with an approach will ensure we obtain appropriate equipment with appropriate support. Ken has also established a good working relationship with the Lake Superior Railroad Museum – they will allow us to digitize NP-related information in their files and place it on the NPRHA Server. For the moment, Dean O'Neill will handle putting the information onto the NPRHA Server. Ken will consult Dean regarding the details of getting the information onto the NPRHA server.

Adjournment moved by Zieska, second by Golde. Voted to adjourn at 10:15 PM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA