

Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association

General Membership Meeting

Duluth, Minnesota

September 16, 2017

Board Members Present: Alan Dahlman, Bob Golde, Bob Makins, Doug Shearer, Jim Woodward, Ken Zieska, Bill Zidel

Board Members not Present: Chris Frissell, Dave Hillard

Meeting called to Order at 1:06 PM

At the request of President Zidel, each of the Board Members present introduced himself to the membership

Old Business: Printed Copies of Company Store P & L, Mainstreeter and Calendar Costs, Membership Report, and NPRHA P & L, Minutes of Wallace Board Meetings and a summary of Board actions since mid-September 2016 were available in the meeting room for review by the members.

We noted the passing of Warren McGee and Ken Vogel, both of whom made huge contributions to the NPRHA. President Zidel also noted the presence of Bill Edgar, who produced the Duluth NPRHA 2017 t-shirt that convention attendees received.

New Business:

NPRHA Board Membership: Ken Zieska presented on behalf of the nominating committee.

- Board Members last elected to a two-year term in 2016 (serving until the end of the 2018 Convention): Don Golde, Bob Makins, Doug Shearer
Note that Don Golde was elected to the Board in 2016 to eventually replace Ken Vogel as Treasurer. With the unfortunate death of Ken Vogel shortly after the 2016 Convention, the Board decided to add Dave Hillard (a retired CPA, who lived closer to Ken Vogel and has handled NPRHA membership renewals since 2006) to the Board to handle the Treasurer's duties including consolidation of financial accounts and records, with the goal of eventually transferring the Treasurer's authority and duties to Don Golde, who is also a CPA. This transfer will be completed prior to the 2018 NPRHA Convention.
- Board Members last elected to a two-year term in 2015, who have decided to retire from the Board: Alan Dahlman, Chris Frissell
- Board Members last elected to a two-year term in 2015, who have decided to continue on the Board, if reelected at this Membership meeting: Dave Hillard, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, Ken Zieska
- Nominees for election at this membership meeting as new Board Members to replace Dahlman and Frissell: Dean O'Neill, Harold Shannon

Duane Durr moved to approve the slate of Director candidates presented above; Gary Wildung seconded the motion. President Zidel noted that Harold Shannon is chairman of the Grants committee and Dean O'Neill is chairman of the Modeling committee. Harold and Dean would abstain from voting on any financial issues relating directly to the committees they chair. Jim Dick raised a question as to whether NPRHA By-laws allow a Committee Chair to simultaneously serve as a Director. Voting on the slate of Directors was tabled while John Fuji reviewed the By-laws.

Upon completion of Committee reports that appear below, John Fuji reported on his review of the most recent version of the NPRHA Bylaws (version D – July 21, 2012). John told the meeting that the Bylaws contain no prohibitions of Committee Members or Committee Chairs simultaneously serving on the NPRHA Board of Directors. In fact, Article 5, section 2 states the following: Committee Members – each Committee shall have at least three members, all of whom are current voting members of the Association, and at least one of whom shall also be a Director of the Association, unless otherwise determined in the Bylaws. Furthermore, Article 9, the Conflict of Interest statement, covering all members of the Association (including Committee members and Board members) calls for recusal when voting on any question regarding authorization for expenditure of NPRHA funds for items under their committee's or their personal purview.

President Zidel then asked three times if there were any additional candidates that someone wished to put forward for election to the Board in addition to Dean O'Neill and Harold Shannon as new Board members and Dave Hillard, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, and Ken Zieska as returning Board members. After no additional candidates were nominated, Dick Loop moved that nominations be reclosed; Duane Durr seconded. Ken Zieska then moved that slate of nominees be accepted. By a unanimous voice vote of the members present at the meeting, the slate of six candidates was approved.

Committee Reports:

- **Grants Committee** (Harold Shannon, Chair; Phil Beach, John Berg, Bruce Ferguson, John Fuji, Bob Horn, and Barry Manowitz): John Berg presented on behalf of the Grants Committee. Three grants were sought and approved by the NPRHA Board during the past year.
 - \$4000 to *Minnesota Transportation Museum* for restoration (new roof, new siding, paint, floor refinish) and construction of a descriptive display for the Northern Pacific Depot from Rutledge, Minnesota, currently on display at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St Paul, Minnesota.
 - \$5000 to *Friends of the Elkhorn Tank*, Missoula, MT for phase 2 restoration of the NP Water Tower at Elkhorn, Montana. This is the last known NP water tank of the 1890 era. NPRHA had previously granted funds for Phase 1 of this project.
 - \$5000 to *Paradise Elementary School Preservation Committee* in Paradise, MT for construction of a foundational Exhibit entitled "When the Whistle Blew" to preserve the story of the Northern Pacific Railway in Paradise MT. The exhibit will be placed in the restored elementary school in Paradise. It will explore the 135-year legacy of the railroad that became the central socioeconomic feature of the Paradise region. It will honor deceased and living railroad workers and educate visitors regarding life and work in a railroad company town, so this heritage may be passed to future generations.
 - John also mentioned that members who know of projects that may be worthy of an NPRHA Grant should visit the NPRHA web site - <http://www.nprha.org/NPRHA%20Preservation%20Grants/Forms/AllItems.aspx> - for further information and instructions regarding submission of requests for a grant. Members may also contact an NPRHA Board member regarding potential grants.
- **Calendar Committee:** Bill Kuebler presented on behalf of the Calendar Committee. The 2018 Calendar has been printed and was available at the Convention. John Fuji has spent many hours enhancing and preparing images for inclusion in the calendar at no cost to NPRHA. John Kutz monitors the print run to ensure optimal quality of the printing. Currently the committee is working on the 2019 Calendar. Members who have images that might be included in a future calendar should send them to Bill at the email address that appears on the calendar and in the Mainstreeter. Since the committee tries to balance the content of each calendar across the wide spectrum of locations, eras, and topics associated with the Northern Pacific, it may take a few years before an image appears in the calendar.
- **The Mainstreeter:** Ed Sherry discussed *The Mainstreeter*. His most challenging goal involves publication on schedule. For various reasons, the publication is sometimes a bit late. John Helberg has stepped forward to do the Modeling Column (reviews of recently released NP-related models) for future issues. We still need someone to work on Modeling articles. Verne Alexander does exemplary writing for the Family Mileposts, Harold Shannon provides information regarding Grants, Bill Kuebler provides the Mystery Photo, and Jan and Bill Taylor are also working in material for the December 2016 issue. Content goal is a balance between Historical and Modeling articles; several presentations at the 2017 include content that may become Mainstreeter articles. Anyone who has an idea for a potential article should submit it; don't hesitate to contact Ed regarding the status of previous submissions that have not yet been published.

2018 Convention at Chehalis / Centralia – Bill Zidel.

- We will continue with a mid-September date for the 2018 Convention. Given the age of most current NPRHA members, that timing works well and helps to reduce the cost to attend, since hotel rates are often lower than in mid-July.

- Dates: September 12 – 15, 2018 (Board meetings will occur the evening of September 11 and the morning of September 16.
- By early October 2017, members should be able to reserve space at the convention hotel in Tumwater. More information will be forthcoming shortly.
- The convention will offer a train ride on the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad
- The convention banquet will likely offer an Italian menu
- Optional activities may include
 - Mt. Rainier Railroad and Logging Museum
 - Washington State History Museum and Museum of Glass in Tacoma
 - A Winery Tour
 - A visit to the Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive and adjacent Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club in Burien, Washington
- Persons interested in offering a Presentation at the 2018 Convention should contact Bill Zidel
- Inserts about the Convention will be placed in *The Mainstreeter*, beginning with the December 2017 issue
- There was discussion regarding timing of the Convention Swap Meet – Consensus: Saturday was the preferred day, with no new presentations scheduled during the Swap meet hours – repeat performances of some earlier presentations may be scheduled during the Swap Meet. There is also the possibility of doing the Swap Meet on Friday evening and Saturday morning, and that may work for the 2018 Convention.

Member Recruitment: When Bill Zidel has completed his new term as NPRHA President, he intends to take up the task of recruiting new members – traveling to train shows, modeling conventions, etc. as Ken Vogel once did for the western portion of the US. *We need a similar recruiter for the eastern region – perhaps someone will come forward.*

Facebook: Douglas Ochsner asked for a show of hands of convention attendees who were members of the Northern Pacific related groups on Facebook. Many attendees raised their hands. Ochsner then asked if we should consider having an NPRHA presence on Facebook as a Private Group. President Zidel commented that because we cannot exercise complete control over what appears on Facebook, even in a Private page, he did not think we should have a formal NPRHA page. NPRHA's formal presence on the Internet will continue to be <http://www.nprha.org> *Secretary's post-meeting comment: Sometimes postings arise on Facebook pages containing questions that can be answered by content already posted on <http://www.nprha.org>, or perhaps <http://www.morphotoarchive.org/rvndb/> In these cases, I have posted comments on Facebook giving brief answers and posting a link to the NPRHA or Museum of the Rockies web sites.*

Other General Comments or concerns from Membership:

- Virginia Berg thanked the NPRHA for arranging the Ladies Tour at the Duluth Convention and suggested that at least one similar event be arranged as part of the 2018 Convention. One option is a Winery Tour; more information should be available soon.
- Gary Wildung mentioned that one of the major Minnesota railroad flea markets occurs at the State Fair grounds on the same weekend that the 2018 Convention has been scheduled. He asked if the 2018 convention could be rescheduled to avoid this conflict. Bill Zidel responded that this probably will not occur for 2018, but may be considered for future conventions.
- Ken Zieska thanked Paul Anderson for a well-run convention at Duluth.
- Ken Zieska asked that we collect information such as the total number of room-nights purchased by convention attendees and the amount of money spent on food, shopping, etc. by convention attendees as these statistics could be useful in bargaining for room rates at future conventions. John Fuji agreed that his experience with large conventions had demonstrated the value of this kind of data. *Perhaps the Board can find a way to collect these statistics via a voluntary poll of attendees at future NPRHA Conventions.*
- Ken Zieska also commented about the challenges of scheduling Conventions on dates that avoided conflicting events and also offered low room rates.

- Pat Egan commented that some railroad historical groups offer more inclusive packages with respect to meals.
- John Berg commented that future convention t-shirts should have a pocket. The shirt vendor who produced the t-shirt for the 2017 Convention countered that this would force the artwork to be printed on the back of the shirt.

Presentation of Presidents Awards: Bill Zidel

- Posthumous award to Ken Vogel for his service to NPRHA as Treasurer and membership recruiter
- The NPRHA Calendar Team – Ray Brown, Duane Durr, John Fuji, Bill Kuebler, John Kutz, Bob McCoy, Gary Tarbox, Gary Wildung
- Richard Yaremko – for his contributions to the Modeling Committee and *The Mainstreeter*
- Chris Atkins – for service to NPRHA
- Bob McCoy – for service to NPRHA
- Verne Alexander – for his masterful writing of Family Milestones and other content for *The Mainstreeter*

Paul Anderson thanked all for attending the Convention.

Adjournment: Duane Durr moved to Adjourn the meeting, Gary Wildung seconded. Approved unanimously by voice vote. Adjourned at 2:46 pm

Jim Woodward
NPRHA Secretary