

General Membership Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – September 13, 2018 – Tumwater, Washington

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 7:16 PM.

Printed copies of Reports on NPRHA Finances, Mainstreeter and Calendar Costs, NPRHA Company Store P&L, 2017 Duluth Convention Income and Expenses, Minutes from 2017 Duluth Membership Meeting, and the agenda for the 2018 Membership Meeting were available. President Zidel encouraged members to ask questions, either during the meeting or by contacting Board Members in the future – contact information is published in *The Mainstreeter*.

Board Members Don Golde, Dave Hillard, Bob Makins, Dean O’Neill, Harold Shannon, Doug Shearer, Jim Woodward, and Bill Zidel were present. Ken Zieska could not attend due to a health issue.

Duane Durr moved to approve the Minutes from the 2017 Membership Meeting at Duluth, Minnesota. Second by Thomas Noyes. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Reports and Business:

- **Jackson Street Roundhouse:** Ken Zieska, Jim Dick, and Mike Borkin have put considerable effort into consolidating, weeding, and moving NPRHA materials into a more workable space at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St Paul, Minnesota
- **NPRHA Board:**
 - Board Members elected in 2017 for two-year terms ending after the 2019 Convention: Dean O’Neill, Harold Shannon, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, and Ken Zieska.
 - Board Members who have agreed to stay on the Board if re-elected in 2018: Don Golde (Board Seat 7), Dave Hillard (Board Seat 9), Bob Makins (Board Seat 8), Doug Shearer (Board Seat 6).
 - President Zidel asked if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 7. There were none. Don Golde was elected by a unanimous voice vote from those members present at the meeting.
 - President Zidel asked if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 6. There were none. Doug Shearer was elected by a unanimous voice vote from those members present at the meeting.
 - President Zidel asked if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 8. There were none. Bob Makins was elected by a unanimous voice vote from those members present at the meeting.
 - President Zidel asked if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 9. There were none. Dave Hillard was elected by a unanimous voice vote from those members present at the meeting.
- Harold Shannon reported on activities of the **Grants Committee**. In addition to Harold as Chair, the Grants Committee consists of Phil Beach, John Berg, John Fuji, Bruce Ferguson, and Barry Kantowitz. Under the current grant process, the committee receives grant requests at any time during the year; however, there is a yearly cutoff of March 1. So, all of the requests received between March 1, 2017, and February 28, 2018, were considered as candidates for 2018 NPRHA Grants. The current maximum individual grant is \$5000, and the nominal current total for grants per year is \$10,000. Given the current financial strength of NPRHA, Harold may seek Board approval to increase that limit. Grant Applicants must be public bodies (such as city or county governments) or 501c3 Non-profit Organizations or private individuals sponsored by a public body or a 501c3 non-profit. Instructions for Grant Applications, as well as the Grant Application form, can be found at <http://www.nprha.org/NPRHA%20Preservation%20Grants/Forms/AllItems.aspx>. Or send an email to grants@nprha.org – it will be redirected to Harold as the chair of the Grants Committee. For 2018, the Committee awarded three Grants:
 - Blueberry Depot in Brule County, Wisconsin - \$5000 granted toward moving and building a new foundation for the depot. A metal roof has been replaced by a historically authentic wooden roof.
 - Fort Abraham Lincoln Foundation in Mandan, North Dakota - \$5000 was requested; \$3000 was granted toward exterior restoration of the Northern Pacific Mandan Depot.
 - \$2000 to Greg Gantner for fencing around the Northern Pacific Depot at Fergus Falls, Minnesota. This depot also received a \$5000 grant for platform work two years ago.

A question was asked regarding how the Grants Committee monitors progress and results on projects supported by Grants. John Fujii commented that in virtually all recent cases, the funds supplied by an NPRHA

Grant were only a small fraction of the investment that has been made by the grantee in pursuit of the project. We have also benefitted from local NPRHA members participation in and/or monitoring of progress on projects supported by grants.

Duane Durr suggested that we publish a list of the remaining NP Depots – a list for 1947 can be found at <http://www.nprha.org/Lists/NP%20Station%20Roster%20of%201947/Standard%20View.aspx> A 2007 list of BNSF Stations can be found at http://www.nprha.org/_layouts/15/osssearchresults.aspx?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Enprha%2Eorg&k=depot%20list Harold commented that if Duane, or another member, can furnish a more up-to-date list, he would see that it got published. This could help ensure that we receive grant requests for future worthy projects. Harold also commented that members should read the article on NPRHA Grants that appears on pages 32 – 34 of the Volume 37, Number 3 issue of *The Mainstreeter*.

Chris Frissell asked if NPRHA was listed in any national registries of organizations offering grants. Chris and Harold will work to pursue such listings. The end goal is to find and fund worthy projects.

- Bill Kuebler reported for the **Calendar Committee**, which consists of Bill, Duane Durr, John Fujii, Bob McCoy, and Gary Wildung. John Fujii does initial photo edits, Ray Brown and Gary Tarbox do layout, and John Kutz handles final photo editing and calendar production.

Calendar production is on a 10.5-month cycle starting on August 1 of each year. The first stage is photo selection, with committee members rating candidate photos. Photo choice is a balancing act between the technical excellence of the photo and the subject matter of the photo. In general, the committee tends to favor subject matter over technical excellence. They also tend to favor action photos over static scenes. They attempt to include color photos, but this can prove challenging given the era involved. They attempt to balance the calendar with regard steam vs diesel, era, east end vs west end, and other factors. Anyone who has a photo they would like to submit for possible use in the calendar should contact Bill at kuebler@frontier.net.

The available supply of NP photographs is somewhat fixed, although Bill asked that anyone who has or knows of additional sources of NP photographs should please contact him. Beginning with 2019, the back cover of the calendar will feature the People who made the NP run, with particular focus on categories of employees in lesser-known crafts, such as Stewardess-Nurses (as seen on the 2019 calendar), and Telegraphers (likely subject of the back cover for 2020).

A member asked if the Calendar was distributed beyond the membership of NPRHA. About 1800 copies of each calendar are mailed to NPRHA members; about 200 are mailed to hobby shops for resale, and the remaining 300 – 500 copies are sent to the NPRHA Company Store (<http://store.nprha.org/calendars/>) for eventual resale. John Berg commented that members should consider displaying the Calendar and *The Mainstreeter* at open houses and railroad gatherings, both to foster sales and as a recruiting tool for NPRHA. In response to a member question, John Fujii said that he could capture images from 8 mm and Super 8 and larger format movies, and that some of those images, if sufficiently sharp and interesting, might be usable for the calendar.

- Dean O'Neill reported on the **Modeling Committee**, which currently consists of Dean, Bruce Barney, Chris Frissell, Steve Joiner, Jeff Nichols, and Richard Yaremko. In 2017, the committee conducted a Structure Survey through several email and Yahoo groups. In 2018, about 15 months later, the survey resulted in a Report and eight new kits that are now available for purchase in the NPRHA Company Store. The most popular new structure was the Cattle Guard, a 3D-printed kit, which is available in N, HO, and O scales. There is also a Bowser HO X-32 50-foot Round Roof Boxcar featuring state of the art lettering from Rick Leach. There are new crossing sign decals in Z, N, HO, S and O scales, as well as Gondola decals. The next project is Wood Chip car decals, which were printed in Italy and should be available in the NPRHA Company Store on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Later in the Convention, Dean will offer a presentation covering NP Wood Chip cars. Future projects include five more kits, including the 10,000 - 13999 series single-door double sheathed HO boxcars being made by Rapido. NP began constructed 4000 of these boxcars between 1923 and 1925 – some remained in service as late as 1986. Because NPRHA provided art work and many photographs to Rapido, we got a very good price on the resulting model. This model will feature several custom road numbers, as well as an unnumbered car for

modelers who wish to have a specific car number. The Modeling Committee will host a modeling clinic later in the convention, during which participants can construct two models in N, HO, or O scale.

In a brief exchange after Dean's report on the Convention Committee, Pat Egan and Dean agreed to have a discussion regarding an importer's to-date unsuccessful attempt to contact the NPRHA Modeling Committee.

- Dean O'Neill also reported on the **Convention Committee**, which consists of Dean, Steve Fuller, and Jan Taylor. This committee was recently formed to do long-term planning for conventions, determine locations for conventions several (3 – 5) years in advance, and update the Conventions Guidelines document that was last revised in 2006. Each Convention will still be managed and run by a local Chair and committee. Fairly firm plans exist for a Brainerd, Minnesota Convention in September 2019 and a Missoula, Montana Convention in September 2020 (**Secretary's comment: University of Montana Grizzlies have an away game in Springfield, Missouri on September 12, 2020 and a home game in Missoula on September 19, 2020. These are the only 2020 games currently visible at <https://gogrizz.com/schedule.aspx> NPRHA should avoid scheduling any activities in Missoula on weekends when the Grizzlies have home games, as this will significantly affect hotel availability and pricing.**) At Brainerd, we should have good support from the local historical organizations, as well as access to the still-standing Northern Pacific Shops.

A question was asked about coordinating convention timing and locations with the Great Northern Railroad Historical Society. Dean answered that the committee has considered that and will be discussing possibilities for the future. The committee is still considering the possibility of a Convention that would either be in or near Yellowstone Park and would be largely devoted to covering the history of NP's involvement with America's first National Park. Due to market forces, a Convention in Yellowstone would most likely be more expensive than most recent NPRHA gatherings.

Bill Zidel commented that he had hoped Ken Zieska or Jim Dick would be at the Tumwater convention to provide more information about the 2019 Brainerd Convention. However, due to Ken's recent health issues and the recent death of Jim's brother Brian, neither of them came to the convention. Bill asked members to pay attention to information in upcoming issues of **The Mainstreeter** regarding the 2019 Brainerd Convention.

- Duane Durr offered positive comments regarding the Membership Meeting and the 2018 Convention in general.
- Bill Zidel encouraged members to listen to his presentation at the Saturday evening Banquet regarding the disposition of Bob Horne's extensive model collection and how that will impact the financial situation of the NPRHA. This was followed by a description of transportation and other arrangements for the September 14 train ride. In addition to two buses, members may use personal vehicles for the 20-minute drive to the train ride site in Chehalis.
- **Presidents Awards:**
 - Bill Kajdzik – for his assistance in marketing the Bob Horne collection
 - Bob Makins – for his assistance in moving the Bob Horne collection – a trailer load of 300 boxes, including 65 boxes of brass models – from Philadelphia to the PNRA at Burien, Washington.
 - Steve Joiner
 - Bob Horne
 - Gary Tarbox
 - Mike Borkin, Jim Dick, and Ken Zieska for relocating and reorganizing NPRHA East End Archive materials at the Jackson Street Roundhouse in St Paul.
- **East End Archive** – Minnesota Transportation Museum decided to terminate the arrangement that allowed NPRHA to store archival materials at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St Paul. However, MTM is currently allowing NPRHA materials to remain at Jackson Street with NPRHA as a sub-lessor to the Great Northern Railroad Historical Society. The situation at MTM is currently somewhat fluid.

Thomas Noyes moved to adjourn the Membership Meeting; Dean O'Neill seconded. Adjourned via voice vote at 8:46 PM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA