

## General Membership Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – September 11, 2019 – Baxter, MN

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 3:23 PM.

Printed copies of Reports on NPRHA Finances, Mainstreeter and Calendar Costs, NPRHA Company Store P&L, 2018 Tumwater Convention Income and Expenses, Minutes from 2018 Duluth Membership Meeting, and the Agenda for the 2019 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, Harold Shannon, Doug Shearer, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, and Ken Zieska were present. Dean O’Neill did not attend the 2019 Convention.

Chris Atkins moved to approve the Minutes from the 2018 Membership Meeting at Tumwater, Washington. Second by Mike Lustig. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

### Reports and Business:

- **NPRHA Board:**

- Board Members elected in 2018 for two-year terms ending after the 2020 Convention: Don Golde (Board Seat 7), Dave Hillard (Board Seat 9), Bob Makins (Board Seat 8), Doug Shearer (Board Seat 6).
- Board Members who have agreed to stay on the Board if re-elected in 2019: Dean O’Neill (Board Seat 5), Harold Shannon (Board Seat 2), Jim Woodward (Board Seat 3), Bill Zidel (Board Seat 1), and Ken Zieska (Board Seat 4).
  - President Zidel asked three times if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 5 – Dean O’Neill. There were none
  - Vice President Zieska asked three times if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 1 – Bill Zidel. There were none.
  - President Zidel asked three times if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 2 – Harold Shannon. There were none.
  - President Zidel asked three times if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 3 – Jim Woodward. There were none.
  - President Zidel asked three times if there were nominations from the floor for Seat 4 – Ken Zieska. There were none.

Jim Dick rose to ask that Dean O’Neill’s nomination be stricken from the list of candidates for Board positions. Mr. Dick said his reason for challenging Mr. O’Neill’s nomination related to the authenticity, originality, and certification of an NP Boxcar Model that was developed by Rapido working with the NPRHA Modeling Committee, which was led by Mr. O’Neill. Mr. Dick stated that he felt the Rapido Boxcar was not authentic, and that he had raised the issue with two Board members, but the Board had done nothing. Ken Zieska commented that the NPRHA By-laws provide for investigation of member complaints and potential removal of Board members for just cause. President Zidel commented that he would continue with election of the five Board candidates, and would handle investigation of Mr. Dick’s complaint separately. Mr. Dick continued to press the issue, stating that Mr. O’Neill had falsified data and should step down as chairman of the Modeling Committee, as well as not serving on the NPRHA Board.

*(Secretary’s comment: Since Dean O’Neill was not present at the 2019 Convention, Mr. O’Neill could not provide immediate comment or rebuttal of Mr. Dick’s complaint.)*

President Zidel commented that he understood that Mr. Dick felt the Modeling Committee “got it wrong” and that the Board would investigate and take action if appropriate; however, we would proceed with election of the proposed slate of Directors. Mr. Dick requested that the election for Mr. O’Neill’s Board position be held separately from the election for the other four candidates for Board positions.

President Zidel then called for a vote on seat 5 – to be held by Dean O’Neill. Two members voiced votes against Mr. O’Neill. All other votes were in favor of Mr. O’Neill. President Zidel declared that Mr. O’Neill had been re-elected.

President Zidel called for a vote on seat 1 (Zidel) – all votes were in favor.

President Zidel called for a vote on seat 2 (Shannon) – all votes were in favor.

President Zidel called for a vote on seat 3 (Woodward) – all votes were in favor.

President Zidel called for a vote on seat 4 (Zieska) – all votes were in favor.

- 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 at 11:59 PM. So, all of the requests received on or after March 2, 2018, but not later than March 1, 2019, were considered as candidates for 2019 NPRHA Grants. 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>. You may also send an email to [grants@nprha.org](mailto:grants@nprha.org) – it will be redirected to Harold as the chair of the Grants Committee. This site also has a listing of all Grants awarded by NPRHA since 2012, which Harold briefly summarized.

For 2016, we adopted a maximum limit of \$5000 for an individual grant and increased publicity for the NPRHA Grants program. This resulted in an increase in the number of grant requests, as can be seen in the history at <http://www.nprha.org/NPRHA%20Preservation%20Grants/NPRHA%20Grant%20Awards.pdf>. For 2019, the Committee awarded five Grants totaling \$23,312 to

- Lake Superior Railroad Museum, Duluth, Minnesota. -- \$5,000 – Restoration to running condition of SD45 Locomotive NP #3617. Our grant will contribute to purchase of batteries and electronic controls for the SD45, as well as toward alignment of the main generator to the prime mover drive shaft.
- Pacific Railroad Preservation Association, Portland, Oregon -- \$5,000 – Completion of 15-year boiler inspection and rebuild of SP&S #700, an NP A3 Class 4-8-4 locomotive – a multi-year project.
- Three Forks Area Historical Society, Three Forks, Montana. -- \$2,312 – Purchase of museum quality period lighting & fixtures for the Trident Depot Heritage Center. This is in addition to a \$2500 grant in 2012 for relocation and restoration of the Trident depot.
- Whitman County Historical Society, Colfax, Washington -- \$5,000 – Renovation of NP rolling stock for display of NP artifacts, railroad history & theater for historic videos, as part of the restoration of the NP depot in Pullman, Washington. Overall, \$280,000 has been raised for this project.
- Yakima Valley Rail & Steam Museum Association DBA Northern Pacific Railway Museum, Toppenish, Washington. -- \$5,000 -- Restoration of 1921 Mann McCann Ballast Spreader NP #642.

A sixth grant request was received on March 2, 2019 (eleven hours too late for consideration for 2019) relating to restoration of the NP Depot for East Helena, MT. It will likely be evaluated for 2020. The next issue of ***The Mainstreeter*** will include an article on the Grants program. Harold commented on the future of the Grants program and the need to fund as many requests as possible (given the limitations of NPRHA finances) since most of the grant requests relate to current projects, which represent preservation opportunities which may not exist in the future.

- 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, typically starting with 35 – 40 candidates, and ultimately resulting in the choice of 13 images for the next calendar. 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](mailto: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 has featured the People who made the NP run, with particular focus on categories of employees in lesser-known crafts, such as Stewardess-Nurses (2019), and Signal Crews (2020).

By mid-September, images for the calendar have been selected, and they go to John Fujii, who does initial editing and cleanup, removing specks, scratches, stains, etc. While John is editing images, Bill is writing captions. Next the images and caption text go to John Kutz, who does layout and final photo editing. By early January, the images, captions, and layout are ready for Bill's final review, which is followed in February by a review by all calendar committee members. Each year, the calendar grids are adjusted as necessary to put the dates on the proper days of the week for each month. Historical notes are added as appropriate for each date. These notes are kept in a master spreadsheet and included for each date where space allows. Not all notes are used in every calendar due to space limitations. All notes are constrained to no more than six lines of text per date.

The calendar is press-ready by the end of February and is taken to the printer by John Kutz, who baby-sits the printing process. Sometimes images that looked great on the computer screen don't look so good when printed, so John Kutz works with the printer to optimize their appearance. Printing occurs in the spring, and the finished calendar is mailed out with the Summer issue of *The Mainstreeter*. Calendars are also sold via the NPRHA Company Store and at hobby shops.

Bill reiterated his request for images for the calendar. Members who have or know of photos that might be used in the calendar should send them to Bill at [kuebler@frontier.net](mailto:kuebler@frontier.net)

- Steve Fuller reported on the **Convention Committee**, which consists of Steve Fuller, Dean O'Neill, Jan Taylor and Ken Zieska. The 2020 Convention will occur in Missoula, Montana on September 15 – 20, 2020. Bill and Jan Taylor are the 2020 Convention chairs. Current plans are to have the 2021 Convention in Brainerd, MN again at the same hotel as the 2019 Convention, with Ken Zieska as 2021 Convention chair. The 2021 Convention will center around the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of groundbreaking for the Northern Pacific, which occurred near Carlton, Minnesota in 1871. Location of the 2022 Convention is not yet determined, although Everett, Washington appears to be a strong candidate. Ken Zieska thanked Jim Dick for his chairmanship of the 2019 Convention. Steve Fuller asked persons who might be interested in chairing future conventions to contact the Convention Committee.
- NPRHA Support of the **Pacific Northwest Railroad Archive**. President Zidel commented that NPRHA recently received a request from Gary Tarbox for additional support for PNRA. Gary made a similar request to the Great Northern Railway Historical Society to contribute to funding for maintenance and improvements to the software used to provide on-line access to information stored in PNRA servers, which additionally includes information gleaned from files and objects that are or were at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul, Minnesota. Boards of both GNRHS and NPRHA have agreed to each provide \$3500 for this project. PNRA also received significant financial support from other entities in the Seattle area for this work.
- **Jackson Street Roundhouse**: NPRHA is now a sublessor of space at Jackson Street Roundhouse. We lease space from the Great Northern Railway Historical Society, who in turn leases space from the Minnesota Transportation Museum. This arrangement is a result of MTM's preference to have only one lessor, with that being the GNRHS. Earlier this year, a container full of documents and other materials was shipped from Jackson Street Roundhouse to the PNRA in Burien, Washington in an effort to reduce the NPRHA footprint at Jackson Street and consolidate materials that pertain to the western portion of the NP at PNRA. Jim Dick, Ken Zieska, Hudson Leighton, and others were involved in packing this container.
- **Gary Coyer**, who has handled **Membership** and **Convention Registrations** for NPRHA, has told President Zidel that he will be retiring from those functions. We need to identify someone else to take on those duties.
- **Lance Vallone** and his wife, who have handled the **Company Store** at Conventions for several years, has also informed us that they can no longer perform that function. So, we will need someone to run the Company Store during future conventions.

- President Zidel asked if there was any other business to be discussed by the membership.
- President Zidel commented that there would be some outstanding Wednesday Banquet Raffle items, many of which were contributed by members.
- Presidents Awards: President Zidel presented the following Presidents Awards:
  - Great Northern Railway Historical Society – for being a good neighbor at Jackson Street Roundhouse.
  - Paul Anderson – for promoting Membership in NPRHA.
  - Gary Coyer – for handling Membership and Convention records.
  - John Nemich – for promoting Membership in NPRHA in Southern Washington and Oregon,
  - Bob Kelly – for working on behalf of the NPRHA at PNRA in Burien, Washington.
- Jim Dick requested that at the close of the Convention members return the lanyards and plastic sleeves from their nametags. This will allow reuse of lanyards and sleeves at future NPRHA conventions.
- Ken Zieska expressed his thanks to Jim Dick's wife, Vida, for all her efforts in support of this year's convention.

President Zidel mentioned that the NPRHA Board would meet later in the evening, following the Banquet and Raffle.

Chris Atkins moved to adjourn the Membership Meeting; Dave Franz seconded. Adjourned via voice vote at 4:38 PM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA