

Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association

General Membership Meeting

Missoula, Montana

September 24, 2021

Board Members Present: Don Golde, Dave Hillard, Bob Makins, Dean O'Neill, Doug Shearer, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, and Ken Zieska.

Board Members Not Present: Harold Shannon did not attend the 2021 Convention

Meeting called to Order at 3:08 PM

Printed Copies of the Meeting Agenda, Company Store P & L, Balance Sheet, Operations Report, Inventory & Sales Summary, NPRHA Profit & Loss statement, NPRHA Membership Report, NPRHA Treasurer's Report, Summary of Board Actions in 2020 and 2021 to date, and Minutes from the April 25, 2021 Virtual Board Meeting were available to Member attendees.

President Zidel recognized Jay Lenzer, whose night photograph of the Missoula NP Depot appears on Convention badges for most Convention attendees.

Duane Durr moved to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2021 NPRHA Board Meeting. Seconded by Bob McCoy. Approved unanimously.

President Zidel also introduced the members of the current NPRHA Board.

NPRHA Board Membership: Five Seats are up for election in 2021.

- Seat 5 – Currently held by Dean O'Neill, who is willing to remain on the Board. No other nominations for Seat 5 were received. Members unanimously approved re-election of Dean O'Neill.
- Seat 1 – Currently held by Bill Zidel, who is willing to remain on the Board and serve as President for one more two-year term. No other nominations for Seat 5 were received. Members unanimously approved re-election of Bill Zidel.
- Seat 2 – Currently held by Harold Shannon, who does not wish to remain on the Board. Steve Fuller nominated Steve Joyner, who indicated he was willing to serve. No other nominations for Seat 2 were received. Members unanimously approved election of Steve Joyner.
- Seat 3 – Currently held by Jim Woodward, who is willing to remain on the Board and serve as Secretary for one more two-year term. No other nominations for Seat 3 were received. Members unanimously approved re-election of Jim Woodward.
- Seat 4 – Currently held by Ken Zieska who is willing to remain on the Board and serve as Vice President for one more two-year term. No other nominations for Seat 4 were received. Members unanimously approved re-election of Ken Zieska.

Bill Zidel commented that when his next term as President ends, he intends to devote his time to increasing NPRHA Membership. This will include attending train shows.

Bill encouraged members to consider including NPRHA in their estate plans. He also encouraged members to consider volunteering to serve on the NPRHA Board.

Calendar Committee:

Prior to giving the Calendar Committee report, Bill Kuebler mentioned that his email address is kuebler@frontiernet.net, not kuebler@frontier.net as was printed in the agenda for the Membership Meeting. Also, Calendar Layout is no longer done by Ray Brown and Gary Tarbox, who had done the initial layout several years ago. John Kutz now does the layout and artwork, with John Fuji handling photo editing and enhancement. Bill mentioned that the 2024 NPRHA Calendar will contain a surprise, in that it will have pages for 24 months. Further details will be revealed when we receive the 2024 calendar.

Grants Committee:

In the absence of Committee Chairman Harold Shannon, John Fuji reported. The Committee proposed, and the NPRHA Board approved, the following 2020/2021 Grants:

- \$2400 to the Minnesota Transportation Museum for Exterior Restoration of NP Caboose #1264 at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul, Minnesota.
- \$5000 to the Livingston Depot Foundation for Window Repair/Replacement on the upper floors of the NP Depot at Livingston, Montana
- \$5000 to the Cheney Depot Society to provide a safety barrier for their depot at its new location along the BNSF tracks in Cheney, Washington.
- \$5000 to the Yellowstone Gateway Museum to complete restoration of NP wooden caboose #1266 at Livingston, Montana.
- \$2000 to the Paradise Elementary School Preservation Committee to support construction of their “When the Whistle Blew” exhibit within their museum at Paradise, Montana.

The Grants Committee also received, but did not recommend approval of, a grant request for \$5000 from the Michigan Trust for Historic Preservation to restore a tender formerly used by NP Rotary Snowplow #44 for display with Chicago & Northwestern 4-6-0 locomotive #175. The Board concurred and did not approve that request.

Bill Zidel and Bill Taylor also gave recognition to the group that restored the NP Water Tank at Elkhorn, Montana as an example of good use of a grant from the NPRHA.

Jackson Street Roundhouse:

Ken Zieska discussed NPRHA’s evolving relationship with the Minnesota Transportation Museum at Jackson Street Roundhouse in St. Paul, Minnesota. Jackson Street has new management and they are very open to working with NPRHA. We will be able to renew our displays at Jackson Street on a regular basis. Lighting has been improved in the archive space. Larry Schrenk has donated a substantial collection of information, some of which will be moved west to the PNRA.

Brainerd Convention – 2022:

This convention will be held at the same resort as the 2019 Convention, but will focus on NP topics in a different portion of northern and central Minnesota, such as the Cuyuna Range. It will include a train ride from Duluth to Two Harbors behind Northern Pacific SD-45 #3617. pulling a train that includes Northern Pacific passenger cars.

Conventions Committee:

Dean O’Neill presented on behalf of the Conventions Committee. Other members include Steve Fuller, Jan Taylor, and Ken Zieska.

At present, future Conventions are planned as follows:

Year	Locale	City/Town	Chair	Notes
2022	East	Cuyuna Range (Brainerd)	Ken Zieska	Done deal. Same hotel as 2019
2023	West	Everett, WA	Kent Sullivan	Nearly done deal. Zidel and O’Neill helping.
2024	West	Toppenish, WA	TBD	Tentative go-ahead with Toppenish group / Doug Shearer
2025	East	Twin Cities, MN	TBD	Joint GN/CB&Q/NP Convention. GN committed.

Although NPRHA has in the past attempted to alternate between locations on the East and West portions of the Northern Pacific, we have not always managed to keep that cadence. Furthermore, no one from the East has stepped forward to do a 2024 Convention. On the other hand, the folks at Toppenish, Washington have expressed strong interest in 2024, and there currently seems to be interest in a joint CB&Q – GN – NP gathering for 2025. To date, NPRHA has not had a western Washington convention north of Tacoma although there is substantial NP history in NW Washington, including the Sumas line and the operation at Lake Whatcom. Toppenish could have NP S-4 4-6-0 #1364 operable by 2024, and has a significant collection of other NP rolling stock. The SP&S and BN groups would also be invited to the 2025 gathering.

Prior to the Membership Meeting, some had commented that 2023 marks the 150th anniversary of NP's arrival in Tacoma and expressed interest in a 2023 convention in that city. However, the Convention Committee learned that another Tacoma convention would probably be substantially more expensive than a location in the Everett area. Most member comments during the meeting were supportive of holding the 2023 gathering in the Everett area.

The Conventions Committee also intends to rework and update the NPRHA Conventions guidebook.

A question was raised regarding holding an NPRHA Convention in Yellowstone Park, perhaps at Gardiner or Mammoth. That is still a possibility, although it is challenging to arrange. Room rates are quite high and reservations probably need to be made at least a year in advance.

Modeling Committee:

Dean O'Neill reported for the Modeling Committee, whose other members also include Chris Atkins, Bryan Borovec, Chris Frissell, Matt Herson, Steve Joyner, Rick Leach, Allan Manson, Jeff Nichols, Jim Ruffing, Todd Sullivan, and Richard Yaremko.

Their Mission Statement is to enable and energize NP modeling through various efforts, including special runs with manufacturers, assisting manufacturers in their research, and researching and producing our own original kits.

Impact: The modeling offerings continue to drive the NPRHA Company Store. The NPRHA Treasurer stated in August 2021: "Modeling items comprised more than 60% of total sales in each reporting period." In 2020, we sold more structure kits than books/CDs/DVDs combined.

2020-2021 Noteworthy Items:

- Released new offerings:
 - GRS 6x8 Signal Bungalow in HO, N and O scale. This simple kit has broad national appeal and a spectacular price point, could really bring modelers to the NPRHA. Prototype bungalows can still be seen along the former NP, although MRL has started to replace them as part of their PTC preparations. Unfortunately, this kit was not included in the items shipped by PNRA to Missoula for sale at the NPRHA Company Store during the 2021 Convention.
 - NP Ice House in HO scale
 - Woodchip car extensions
- Helped several manufacturers with new model development - Walthers, Athearn, Broadway Limited, Atlas, Trainworx, Rapido, Moloco, and American Limited Models.
- Conducted an online NP Freight Car survey, receiving 180 responses, which have already been reviewed by multiple manufacturers.

Future To-do:

- Goal is to run advertising by December 2021 for NPRHA modeling offerings. Work on drafts has started as of August 2021.
- The future is looking very bright for NP modelers, with projects both in the NPRHA and by manufacturers in the works. Save your pennies!
- We are considering building a series of display modules that can travel and photograph well, that feature our extensive line of model offerings.
- Improve our N scale offerings, by converting best-selling HO kits to N scale.
- Bring more modelers to the Northern Pacific railway.

Vista Dome Package – Dean O'Neill: 126 have been sold to date (6 at the Convention so far), generating \$36,540 gross income. \$17,640 of that pays for a four-year basic NPRHA Membership, and \$1260 is the expense for the USB drives, leaving \$17,640 of income to NPRHA to be spent on Grants, Advertising, Membership, Modeling, and VDP Marketing.

Questions / Comments from the Floor:

Duane Durr asked when the NPRHA would start advertising in Modeling and Railroad magazines. Bill Zidel commented that he recently had discussed that question with Dean O'Neill and Jim Ruffing and that advertising would likely be appearing in the near future, starting with *Railroad Model Craftsman*.

John Fuji recognized and expressed gratitude to the team who organized the 2021 Convention and they received a round of applause.

Lance Valone from Billings, Montana made us aware of a group called *Friends of #1031*, formed to perform maintenance and cosmetic restoration of Northern Pacific 0-6-0 #1031 at the Yellowstone County Museum near the Billings airport. He urged members traveling through Billings to stop by the Museum for a visit. Hours are 10:30 – 5:30 Monday – Saturday. <http://www.ycmhistory.org/>

Jan Taylor and Ken Zieska requested that members return their lanyards and clear plastic convention credential holders before the end of the Banquet so that they may be reused for the 2022 Brainerd Convention.

Al Zimmerman called the names of three convention attendees who had not picked up their Convention T-Shirts in an effort to make sure they got their shirts.

We had mail-in purchases of 52,000 raffle tickets, which will participate in the post-Banquet raffle on Saturday. These and the other raffle purchased form an important part of financial support to NPRHA. Bill also thanked everyone who contributed prizes for the raffle.

Second Board Meeting is scheduled at 3:00 PM on September 25, 2021. As always, interested members are welcome to attend.

Adjournment:

Duane Durr moved to adjourn, seconded by Lance Valone. Approved Unanimously. Adjourned at 4:04 PM

Jim Woodward – NPRHA Secretary