

Board Meeting – Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association – September 13, 2022 – Baxter, Minnesota

Meeting called to order by President Bill Zidel at 8:05 PM. Board Members present: Don Golde, Steve Joyner, Bob Makins, Doug Shearer, Jim Woodward, Bill Zidel, and Ken Zieska. Dave Hillard and Dean O’Neill did not attend the 2022 Convention.

Guests included Bill Kuebler, Bill Taylor, and Al Zimmerman.

2024 Calendar:

Bill Kuebler reported that the 2024 NPRHA Calendar is on track, John Kutz is working on the final production. Printing costs may be an issue, as printing charge rates are changing monthly, as are many other costs in the current economy. Bill asked if we want to increase the cover price of this special 2024 Nixon Tribute Calendar from the recent price of \$10 to something higher. Bill suggests a price of \$20. Bill also asked if we want to print more than 2600 calendars, given the special nature of the 2024 Calendar. We will raise this question at the Membership meeting on September 17 to get an idea of how the members feel about ordering additional calendars.

Bill mentioned that the 2024 Nixon Tribute Calendar is the 25th NPRHA calendar that he has helped produce, and it will also be the final one to which he will contribute. Furthermore, nearly all other current members (Duane Durr, Bill Kuebler, Bob McCoy, and Gary Wildung) of the Calendar Committee will be leaving the committee, for various reasons – several for medical issues. The current committee will complete publication of the 2024 Calendar by July 2023, but only one member of the current committee – John Fujii – currently plans to remain on the committee beyond that point. John has told Bill that he would not serve as chair of the Calendar Committee.

So that means that NPRHA will need to find a new chair (and several other members) of a committee that would start work about August 2023 to produce a 2025 NPRHA Calendar. If past practice continues, calendar development, preparation, and production takes about 11 months from the beginning of photo choice until the product is printed. Bill Kuebler and Bill Zidel will raise this issue at the September 17 Membership meeting to see if we can get volunteers to work on future calendars. Bill Zidel will also request that John Fujii attend the September 17 Board meeting to further discuss this issue.

Responding to a question regarding outside resources used in production of NPRHA Calendars, Bill Kuebler reported that John Kutz has been training David Saldana to assist with production. Printing can continue per past practice, although prices are likely to rise as previously mentioned.

After Bill Kuebler left the meeting, discussion continued regarding pricing for the 2024 Calendar. There appeared to be consensus regarding an increased price – perhaps a \$15 to \$20 cover price for non-members of NPRHA. Ken Zieska asked if we should consider involving an outside resource such as White River in production of the Calendar. Another option would be to start reproducing the former large single sheet, single picture, Northern Pacific calendars. For example, the 1958 or 1969 NP Calendar could be used for 2025 simply by changing the year and making sure that holidays like Presidents Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day are properly indicated.

Changes to Composition of the NPRHA Board over the next two years:

Current Board Composition:

Person	Current Position	Last Elected	On Board through	Willing to serve another term?
Don Golde	Member	2019*	2022	Yes
Dave Hillard	Treasurer	2019*	2022	?
Steve Joyner	Member	2021	2023	?
Bob Makins	Member	2019*	2022	No
Dean O’Neill	Member	2021	2022	?
Doug Shearer	Member	2019*	2022	No
Jim Woodward	Secretary	2021	2023	No
Bill Zidel	President	2021	2023	No
Ken Zieska	Vice President	2021	2023	?

* Since NPRHA had no Convention in 2020 due to COVID, Board Members elected in 2019 agreed to serve through the 2022 Convention.

Since Bill Zidel will not be president after 2023, we need to identify an appropriate replacement for that position, perhaps from among the current Board members. A candidate has been identified to serve as Secretary after 2023, and Bill Zidel and Dave Hillard are working to identify a candidate for Treasurer.

Comments on the 2022 Convention:

Per Ken Zieska, there will be no model railroad visits associated with the 2022 Convention.

Comments on the Future of the NPRHA by Zieska and Zidel:

Over the past seven years, the Board has significantly improved control of the financial resources of NPRHA, especially with respect to Grants, the Company Store and the Modeling Committee. We need to continue that going forward.

Future Conventions:

Bill Zidel is leading arrangements for the 2023 Tacoma, Washington Convention.

Dean O'Neill and Kent Sullivan are working with Bill Zidel on plans for the 2024 Convention in the Everett, Washington area.

2025 Convention will likely be held in Woodbury, Minnesota, perhaps in conjunction with the Great Northern Historical Society and maybe the CB&Q group. Concerns were expressed regarding the inclusion of the CB&Q group, given our perception of their approach to conventions. This will likely be a four-day convention and will probably include opportunities visit many model railroads, and well as a train excursion that could consume significant time. We would likely have presentations occurring simultaneously with layout tours, and both layout tours and presentations may be repeated on multiple days to facilitate access by convention attendees. So if we can find a hotel that will host a convention without including a banquet, we might forgo a banquet in 2025.

2026 Convention will likely be held at or near Toppenish, Washington.

East / West Archives:

We're getting and using more input from users regarding establishment of common architecture and data normalization for the two archives. This should make the information in the archives more accessible by "ordinary (non-IT)" users.

Hudson Leighton remains the main archiver at Jackson Street. We need to make certain that Hudson receives support (equipment, etc.) that he needs. Within the next month, scanning of the BNSF Equipment Photo Logs will begin at Jackson Street. These includes builders photos for nearly every piece of rolling stock that the NP, GN, or BN bought or built internally. Hudson plans to scan to produce 400 dpi TIFF files. Some Board members questioned this resolution level.

Choice of resolution depends to some extent on the quality and physical size of the object to be scanned. Given the relatively low cost of storage, we should support a resolution high enough to provide images that preserve as much information as possible and can facilitate detailed examination of the photo images. For relatively large sharp prints (e.g. 8x10 inches), many experts recommend scanning at 600 dpi. For sharp smaller prints, it may be wiser to scan at 1200 dpi to capture all detail. For 35 mm negatives or slides, scanning at higher resolutions (up to 4800 dpi) is often recommended to capture all the detail in sharp images. Scanning sharp medium format negatives or slides can probably be done at somewhat lower resolutions (perhaps 1200 dpi). Saving scans as TIFFs (rather than jpgs or other compacted formats) is recommended to preserve maximum information about the original image. We may want to consider consulting with John Fujii and Dean O'Neill regarding standards for scanning resolution, as well as resolution and size of resulting jpgs for posting. We should also look at the scanning instructions document recently written by Dean O'Neill.

NPRHA Investments:

Given the current economic situation, NPRHA's investments are sound and holding their value about as well anyone else's investments. This is partly the result of the fact that NPRHA's investments are generally conservative in nature. NPRHA may not gain as much as some others in an economic boom, but we also won't lose as much when the economy is stressed like it is at the moment.

Miscellaneous:

Don Golde asked if anyone in the room was aware of any photos that may have been taken in Jefferson Canyon of the NPRHA 2003 Convention train that ran from Laurel to Whitehall to Livingston on July 17, 2003. Jim Woodward replied that he had posted photos taken from that train on *Trainorders.com*. Don said he was interested in photos taken by a photographer who was not on the train. Bill Taylor said that he might consult with Dave Franz, Alan Burns, and perhaps Jay Lenzner to see if they had taken any photos from that vantage point or were aware of anyone else who may have taken some.

Adjournment: Bob Makins moved to adjourn the meeting, Bill Zidel seconded. Adjournment approved unanimously at 9:30 PM.

Jim Woodward – Secretary, NPRHA