



## *Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains*

### **Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2018 Fourth Quarter Board of Directors Meeting**

**Date: December 11, 2018**

**Time 8:00 PM EST**

#### **Meeting called to order at 8:08 pm by Dave Snow, President.**

The following were present for the meeting: Dave Snow (President and Membership Chair), Bill Harryman (Director), Jon Molesworth (Vice-President), John Groot (Treasurer), Ralph E. Wilcox (Director-Emeritus), Charles Bartel (Secretary)

#### **Secretary Report – Charles Bartel**

Minutes from the third quarter board meeting were submitted for approval via email and published in the BTO magazine. As part of the pre-meeting activity and given that Marshal would be unable to attend, he had the following comments on the last BOD meeting under convention activity. “Regarding Build Your Own at Plymouth-- I stated that I would contact members individually as they signed up for it on the registration form and discuss their space requirements, electrical needs, etc. so I can lay out the design for the convention room.” Marshall believes that Teya’s question regarding the BYOL was how it was going to be judged which John and I attempted to answer. John has been the judge in the past so the final criteria should be up to him.” After the BOD meeting, I will make these corrections along with any that others would be discussed under secretary’s report.

There were no other additions or corrections made under the Secretaries report, so the minutes as amended with the above insertion stands.

Motion by John Groot to accept and seconded by Ralph E. Wilcox. Motion approved.

#### **Treasurer Report – John Groot**

Financial report submitted to BOD members via email. We are doing well at this time of the year as compared to prior years. All the bills have been paid for the 2018 convention. Some bills for the 2019 have been paid to ensure the published activities are locked in and the first of the prepayments for the 2019 have been made. We had a net income for the year of \$ 5,151. This money along with incoming registrations will cover the 2019 commitments that the BTO has made. As of this meeting we have 8 convention registration. Most of our for-sale inventory is gone. As of this meeting date, we have received two orders for the Christmas cabooses. There is one left. Two off color Sparky engine and caboose are still left.

Motion made to accept by Dave Wierowski and seconded by Charles Bartel. Motion approved.

#### **Membership Report**

We have 317 members as of December 1<sup>st</sup>. Have had one new (reinstatement) since December 1<sup>st</sup>. We do not normally pick up new members in this time period. In order to understand the wishes and desires of the members, we are still sending out survey forms for thoughts and comments. Have sent out about 200, received 35 back. Some have commitments to send in pictures and articles for the BTO. We had three articles in the last BTO of projects/pictures. Those that said they would send in articles, etc., will receive a letter to keep articles flowing. Member Paul D. Hart was thrilled to receive the Halloween hopper car that glows in the dark!



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Motion to accept made by Bill Harryman, seconded by John Groot. Motion approved.

### **BTO Editor Report**

Due to family health issues, Bob was not able to attend tonight. In his place, Dave made some observations that Bob is doing a very good job in getting our magazine out. We are deeply thankful for his activity and the great magazine. The last issue had some member content in it for trips and how-to articles. We hope to see this trend continue. The first release of the 2019 convention and sign up sheet was also included in the last issue.

### **Convention Report**

**The convention report was submitted by email to the board prior to the meeting and was verbally presented by Dave during the meeting.**

**We seemed to headed for a very good convention. We had commitments from the hotel for 45 rooms and they have booked 46 rooms. Currently, there are still some rooms available during the week, but all the rooms are gone for day before and day after. The alternate hotel, Hilton Gardens (sister/overflow hotel) will honor the \$ 149 rate of the convention hotel. Must mention trains when making reservations with the Hilton. Those that need a room for Saturday before and Friday night of convention week because the 1520 is full need to book at the Hilton as soon as possible. Suggest an email blast to alert members of the room activity at the two hotels.**

All the events published in the BTO have been booked, with the next set of expenses due in January, February and March. First convention meeting will be held in Mid January.

For the 2020 St. Louis convention, there is nothing new to report. Will have a power point presentation for the Plymouth board of directors meeting.

Relative to convention support and the sale of club cars, there is on 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Christmas Caboose to sell, and two second run convention cart sets. There are no cars planned prior to Plymouth. Looking into the request for a St. Louis trolley that would tie into the Collinsville convention and its trolley/trolley set. Preliminary discussion with HLW. More information at the first quarter BOD meeting in 2019.

Motion to accept made by Bill Harryman, seconded Charles Bartel. Motion approved.

### **Old Business**

Facebook—Bill Harryman If someone on the board wants to play with it, let Bill know. We are getting a couple of request a week that have no connection to trains. We deny them admission to the page.

York Spring Show Attendance – Dave spearheads this show. We have paid the booth fee. Need two cars for raffle for new members, one per day.

Club Car Status – As noted in convention, there will be a lull in activity.

### **New Business**



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Need Budget for 2019 - Dave will put his figures together for the year along with projected dues. Jon Molesworth will work with John Groot with what else is needed and then submit a budget. Dave will send out his data within the next day or two. The convention, cost and registration fees are a critical item in generating a budget. Requires some cushion to accommodate emergency cancellation such as the death of a member. Will reduce the number of BTO copies from what we have currently purchased. Keeping small cushion for publicity purposes as well as to support members who may want second copies.

Web site discussion on current site data including:

- a. No way to reach potential new members that find the current web page that has some old data on it. We need to be able to back Lou (Webmaster) up. He has been sick and that has caused some of the web site data to become outdated. Also, he has not received pictures, etc. of a couple of the past conventions that he was unable to attend.
  - b. Dave to contact Lou for passwords, etc. so that we can back him up with current data. Teya is collecting photos per her commitment in the last board meeting, but holding them until Dave and Lou have had a discussion.
  - c. If members use pay pal, there is a fee. In order to support this fee and not run into negative cost for the club, we need to add a \$ 20 fee to use pay pal.
  - d. Motion to add a \$ 20 fee to convention registration that use pay pal. Motion by Charles Bartel, seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion approved.
2. Potential Blast e-mail for convention activity – John will send out an email blast on hotel rooms.
3. Discussion of Cleveland for convention site for 2021
- a. For 2021, Marshall request board approval to have the convention in Cleveland, Ohio. He needs to have BOD approval to get a hotel under contract. The target dates are June 21 – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Preliminary work is being done with a hotel in the Flats district of town. David Stashnik and Marshall have been discussing Cleveland ever since he volunteered to be the boots on the ground. Among potential activities are the Age of Steam Roundhouse, Warther Museum, Cuyahoga Valley RR, B&O Roundhouse, Mad River-Nickel Plate RR Museum, rock and roll Hall of Fame, NFL Hall of fame, NS main east/west line adjacent to hotel in Flats. There is a Raid (public rail transportation) stop adjacent to hotel in the Flats that would connect to the airport. There is a Margaritaville restaurant (Jimmy Buffett's) in the same block as the hotel. In general, the Flats is a restaurant district.
  - b. Teya had a discussion with Dave prior to the BOD meeting and supports this venue. For most of regulars, it would be a reasonable drive.
  - c. Request to get a hotel under contract before Plymouth made by Marshall via his email. Supported by Dave Snow and seconded by John Groot. Motion carried. Cleveland here we come!

General comments at the close of the meeting included a comment that Ulrich is looking good in some pictures that we have seen. His recovery is slow. We do not expect that he will be able to participate in club activities for a while. The LGB Switzerland tour had several BTO members on it. A picture was sent to Ulrich from that trip. We are trying to keep Ulrich abreast of activities in the hope that this will help him memory in his recovery.

Dave made a motion to adjourn at 8:56, seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion passed. Merry Christmas to all.



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### **Attachment: Third Quarter BOD notes as amended**

#### **Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2018 Third Quarter Board of Directors Meeting**

Date: October 2, 2018

Amended by Marshall Adams as part of pre-meeting prep for the fourth quarter BOD meeting. The amendment made is: "Regarding Build Your Own at Plymouth-- I stated that I would contact members individually as they signed up for it on the registration form and discuss their space requirements, electrical needs, etc. so I can lay out the design for the convention room." Marshall believes that Teya's question regarding the BYOL was how it was going to be judged which John and I attempted to answer. John has been the judge in the past so the final criteria should be up to him."

Call to order@ 8:00 PM EST

Participating in the meeting via teleconference were: Dave Snow, President and Membership Chair, Bill Harryman Director, Jon Molesworth Vice-President, Scott Fowler, Vice-President, John Groot, Treasurer, Bob Somogyi, BTO Editor, Ralph E. Wilcox, Director-Emeritus, Ralph S. Wilcox, Director, Dave Wierowski, Director, Marshall Adams, Convention Chairman, Teya Caple-Woods, Director, Charles Bartel, Secretary

#### **Secretary Report – Charles Bartel**

Minutes from the last quarter board meeting were submitted to Board members and to Bob Somogyi for publication in the BTO, prior to board approval. There were no additions or corrections as published with a motion made by Dave Snow to accept the minutes, seconded by Scott Fowler. Motion carried

#### **Treasurer Report – John Groot**

Based on past experience, we are in pretty good shape for this time of the year. We have paid the expenses incurred for the 2018 convention. There was a small difference between our cost and our income from the convention and this is being used to cover the expenses being received for the 2019 convention Plymouth Convention. As we look forward to 2020, we have begun to incur small fees for this location. Jon Molesworth, Vice President, has been added to the bank records as a second signatory for Club checks. Motion to accept the report made by Scott Fowler and seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion passed.

#### **Membership Report – Dave Snow**

Membership is currently at 321, a growing number. We recruited 7 new members and reinstated 4 members. This was offset by the death of one member and delete 3 others for nonpayment of dues. The recruit a buddy seems to be responsible for some of this growth, as we have several recruiting members achieving Gold and Platinum levels. In order to further awareness of our club and attract new members, Hartland Locomotive Works (HLW) is willing to put a membership application cards in their product when shipped. This will start on an experimental basic with 50 applications. The application is a simple trifold and has been coded so that we can tell where the application originated. Will be placed in random products as they pack boxes for distributors. If this is successful, they will work with us to expand it.

Motion made to accept this report by Jon Molesworth and seconded by John Groot. Motion passed.

#### **BTO Editor Report – Bob Somogyi**

Has all but two pictures for the 2019 calendar. Has several commitments for additional pictures. Gary Ludwig was going to scan and send some pictures. Winter issue deadline was October 1<sup>st</sup>. Still has some time opening before the magazine has to be locked down. A short discussion was had on the pictures for publication. John Groot and Dave Snow have worked with Bob to solicit pictures for the calendar and for the magazine. Pictures of individual layouts along with pictures of club activities are needed. Do we want strictly G scale pictures? Maybe some real train pictures from club members, especially if the trains being ridden are being pulled by engines modeled by LGB and other manufactures. We have one full page ad and an entry form for the kids contest being introduced.

Motion to accept made by Scott Fowler and seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion passed.



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### **Convention Report - Marshall Adams**

We were able to put some cash into the treasury from the 2018. Hotel is booked for St. Louis, but nothing else will be done for this convention until next year.

Preliminary schedule for the Plymouth 2019 convention was sent to the board for review. Note that the convention will open on Sunday, June 23 and the farewell banquet will be held on Friday, June the 28<sup>th</sup>. Build your own layout contest, very successful for the 2018 convention, will be in convention room with set up and judging on Sunday. They will be up for the whole convention time. Tuesday will be a sponsored USA train day at USA trains. There will be an open house plus a 20% discount on any purchase. A USA a train day was done several years ago and was very successful. We feel that this will be a great event. USA trains is a strong supporter of our club with donated prizes. Thursday will have membership meeting in the morning with the rest of the day a "free" day. Friday is stern wheel boat. Dinner will be Thanksgiving in June. Working on budget to get the numbers aligned with the projected number of attendees.

Convention car procurement being worked on. Blue version will be the convention car. We are looking at purchasing cars in lots of 50. From a manufacturing position, this is the best fit for our vendors. Working on a xxx (keeping is a surprise for the banquet) car for the banquet. Still working on the complement (convention car, pre-convention purchase, site purchase, and banquet car). One who collects all will have a nice set.

Rail Explorers, an activity recommended by two board members and highlighted in the last BTO, would be a Thursday day self-event. They only have a capacity of 30 per ride. This would only fill 1/2 of a bus, or we would have people sitting around the staging area waiting for the next tour. This arrangement is not viable as a club event but would be great as a small group event on the free day.

Motion to accept made by Jon Molesworth and seconded by John Groot. Motion passed.

### **Old Business**

1. Contact Dealers for literature

Literature to be distributed @ shows and conventions. We need someone to take responsibility for this activity. On the other hand, RLD and Pizza express have membership forms to pass out.

2. Facebook

It seems as if we have been hacked. Almost all of the new members applications are women with no train interest. We have been denying their applications. Of the current membership on Facebook, 47 of them have membership. Are getting 2 to 3 a day that are legitimate. We need to establish a trail from Facebook membership to BTO membership.

3. York Spring Show-

Dave Wierowski is heading this activity. A discussion on a new member raffle. Dave asked if he should pick up a couple of cars (one per day) or will we take a couple from inventory. Two cars will be sent to Dave for the show. Teya Cagle-Woods, Bonny and Charles bartel will be there to support the booth.

4. Club Cars



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40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Piko set is gone. There are two convention car sets, left. Christmas Caboose has three left. First shipment of the Christmas caboose should go out this Friday. Take a break on club cars until later in 2019 or maybe skip until 2020.

### **New Business (with action items)**

#### 1. Red Book addition

John Groot uncovered some issues with how our club is identified at the bank while setting up Jon's signature. As a result, he has sent an email to all board members with an explanation of what has happened and a trademark registration that identifies us as the BTO Club. We should not be using the incorporation name of L.G.B. Model Railroad Club Inc. We want everyone to be comfortable with who we are. He asked that the email and the registration form be added to the Red Books. There are currently only four copies of this book. President, Membership Committee Chairman, BTO Editor, and the Secretary have copies of this book. This is a collection of club history. A quick discussion on expanding the availability of this book was had including putting it on the Web page, protected by password and limited editing to select board members. Open for further discussion.

#### Survey Update Report

Before the 2018 convention Dave started to search out information on our membership who did pay their dues. On his own, using his own funds, he sent out a survey with a self-address, stamped envelope. Sent out about 100, but only got 20 back. Has also sent out letters to deleted members and only got two back. In general, the percentage numbers are good for a survey. We would still like to get more participation in this survey.

#### 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary picture book

Teya Caple-Woods put a picture book together for Ulrich. She made a couple of copies, one of which was sent to Charles Bartel. After reviewing the book, it was added to the agenda as a possible option for members to purchase. It is a hardback book with about 40 pictures in it. Will send out some pictures for board members to look at to decide if we want to offer it to members.

#### 2. Ulrich Status

Teya Caple Woods reported on Ulrich's status as of the 22 of September. Motor functions are getting better, communication also becoming easier. He is still in a wheel chair, but overall show great recovery. Two packages were sent to him, one with the picture book and one with a club car set.

#### 3. club inventory

Teya Caple-Woods as a new board member asked: Who has it? What is involved? Does it include our track, buildings? How much stuff do we have to do something different with at the conventions.

Hard inventory (that is recorded inventory of prize material, is held by Scott, Bill, Dave and John. Jon Moleswoth has a non-working inventory, i.e. material that is not inventoried. Most of our inventory is for prizes, either purchased or donated.



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### 4. design your own layout

Teya Caple-Woods is working on the rules for this event as noted under convention report. Do not have details yet. We have a lot of space.

### 5. website updates

6. Teya Caple-Woods noted that the Website is not up to date at this time. She has been in contact with Lou, our web master. 2015 was the last update of pictures from the BTO conventions. He has no pictures submitted pictures from 2016, 2017, or 2018. Unfortunately he has not been at these convention due to health issues. Marshall ask should there be a web site liaison? Dave sends new members and deletes. Dave Snow will take on a larger role in working with Lou on the web site.
7. Dave Wierowski commented on Hess toy truck suitable for G scale.
8. Dave Wierowski has put together dome observation trip. Contact him for details.
9. Dave Wierowski reported that the Finger lakes Live Steamers has a updated web site. (They were on the Buffalo convention schedule.) Try it out if you get a chance.
10. Scott Fowler who has arranged for the magnetic name tags for board members was approached at the last convention about members acquiring name tags and polo shirts. Scott would get them made up on a as needed bases. Not making a profit, but as a service to members. Can it be in the next BTO? Does the board think this is a good idea? Maybe a single sheet in the BTO with Scott's address. Board members agreed to move forward with this activity.

Fourth quarter Board meeting announced for December 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00. Had some board member issues with this date. Dave Snow asked that board members sent dates in December that board members would be available, and he will announce a new date.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by John Groot, Seconded by Teya. Adjourned at 9:19