



## *Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains*

### **Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2019 First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting**

**Meeting Date: March 8, 2019**

**Meeting Time: 8:00 PM EST**

#### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Snow at 8:04 pm EST.

Roll Call indicate the following were present: Dave Snow, Jon Molesworth, Scott Fowler, Bob Somogyi, Ralph E. Wilcox, Ralph S. Wilcox, Dave Wierowski, Marshall Adams, Teya Caple-Woods, Charles Bartel.

#### **Secretary Report**

Minutes from the fourth quarter 2018 board of directors meeting were submitted for approval via email, and once approved via email, were submitted to the BTO editor for posting in the Spring issue of the BTO. Motion to approve made by Scott Fowler, seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion approved.

#### **Treasurer Report**

John Groot was unable to attend the meeting. His report was submitted to the BOD via email prior to the meeting for review. Our final records for 2018 showed that we came out a little ahead in last year's convention. Motion to accept made by Charles Bartel to accept the report as submitted. Seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion approved.

#### **Membership Report**

Membership has declined by a couple of members. Two members have passed, and a couple others are now on fixed income and needed to delay their dues. They hope to rejoin latter. There is no indication of an issue causing declining membership except for age and associated issues. We are at a membership of 316 as of 3/1.

#### **BTO Editor Report**

Valley Offset has replaced Ag Press as our printing source. They had out sourced the last three issues. Expect no change in cost or performance. The salesman from Ag Press is at Valley Offset and is handling our account.

Spring issue was mailed last week. Extra copies have been received by Bob and Dave. Members should be receiving their issues in the next few days. Summer issue lacking in material. Any help would be appreciated. Dave to canvass members for articles. Would like some information on St Louis to begin to get members to think about the St. Louis convention. Charles offered an article on why a local club. Will send to Bob for comment and possible use in the Summer issue. Dave Wierowski indicated this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Finger Lakes Live Steamers. There is an article on them in the Live Steam publication. Dave is going to see if he can get something on the club for the BTO since we visited that site during the Buffalo convention.

Could we save money if we went digital? Question proposed by Scott. The indication is no, as not all members are on line and we could not split between print and digital due to the size of our membership. Motion to accept made by Dave Wierowski, seconded by Scott Fowler. Motion carried.

#### **Convention Report**

##### 2019 status report

Data was submitted via email to BOD prior to the meeting. This is a strange registration year. We started off with a bang and had many early registrations. And then they just dried up. Only a couple in the last several weeks. There are 14 – 16 "regular" members who normally come that have yet to register. We have 35 registrations with about 61 people. Most of those that have registered have registered for all events. They only low registration is for the Friday morning cruise. Marshall needs 50 per bus in order to break even on our pre-convention cost. From that standpoint, we are doing well. Still waiting on bus times in order to publish the convention schedule. Had our first convention committee meeting two weeks ago. All seems to be going well. 1620 hotel has a few rooms left but is primarily filled up for the convention. Anyone who still needs a room should do it now, as this is the start of vacation season for this area and the rooms will fill in shortly.

##### 2020 activity

We have the hotel data for St. Louis, will be in the Summer addition. Working out event details.

##### 2021 activity



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At last board meeting we approved Cleveland as the site for the 2021 convention. That was done in order to confirm a hotel. When the contract was submitted for approval, there was a surprise in it that caused us to back out of that hotel. Looking for a new hotel which may be in the suburbs instead of downtown. Will use the transit to get around.

Report accepted without formal acceptance.

### **Old Business**

1. Facebook – Scott and Jon continue to approve new members to the Facebook account. Have not had as many just adding a “friend” type of request. Trying to ensure that they have some interest in trains.
2. York Spring Show Attendance – Charles has cars for raffle from Dave Snow as well as extra BTO copies. Dave has bags from prior shows, membership applications, raffle tickets, etc. Will come down on Thursday for set up. Currently in the BTO both are the Wierowski's, Bartel's, and Teya. Scott will be at the show but working in one of the vendor booths.
3. Website Activity - Dave is to work with Lou on getting the website updated. We lost some momentum on registration by not having that page working earlier. Teya collecting pictures of past conventions to be posted.
4. Club Car Status – Have only a couple of sets of the off-color sets from last year. We are proposing a trolley as a club car for 2019. One from HLW who will only make as many as we have orders for. There was also a short discussion of a box car with St. Louis graphics instead of a trolley. This would potentially require the club to purchase in advance and then sell off the inventory. Box cars, even when part of a theme have been a hard sell lately. The Trolley with HLW is a good fit for the current purchasing trend that we have seen recently with their offer to manufacture only what we have orders for. This approach reduces the financial risk for the club in putting inventory on the shelf and then taking an extended time to sell it off.
5. Budget for 2019 – Jon Molesworth completed a budget for 2019 and submitted to Dave. He will send it out tonight for BOD review and ask for approval to be noted in the publication of these minutes.

### **New Business**

There was no new business presented at this meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Charles Bartel, seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Next BOD meeting June 22 at 1620 hotel.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm est.

Amendment to meeting notes: 2019 budget submitted to BOD members by Dave Snow for approval via email. Budget was approved by the board by 3/9/19. It will be printed in the BTO Summer issue.

Respectively submitted,  
Charles Bartel  
BTO Secretary