



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2018 First Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

Date: March 5, 2018

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

Attending the meeting were Dave Snow (Membership Chair/President), 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)

Minutes from the fourth quarter 2017 board meeting were submitted for comment and approval via email, and once revised and approved, were posted on the website and in the BTO

Treasurers report was submitted to board members via email prior to the meeting. We have sent a little more money to Hartland. Currently (as of the date of the BOD meeting), we have 35 registrations with a total of 55 people. The Sparky set has sold out all of the first run and we have orders for 7 second run units and 3 off color units. We have one shanty left. The Shanty sale was a success.

Motion to accept made by Jon Molesworth seconded by Ralph E. Wilcox. Motion passed.

Membership Report was emailed to the board prior to the meeting. A summary of the report has 23 members removed from the rolls. Two of these were deceased members. 14 of them were over 20-year members. It is assumed that lack of renewal is an age factor as they had been active members. Total membership is now at 346. At the York show in March we hope to pick up a few new members. We have 10 honoree members including past presidents who no longer pay dues. We are working on a member reach out program. Also working on the website to have a button for a welcome note from the president. In response to the membership renewable notices, we sometimes get notes back. Dave Snow is working to answer all cards. Moving forward, Dave is sending out a to all members at the time of renewal and asking for input from them on their view of the club. As of the meeting date, there have been 6 letters sent out. Recruit a buddy member program is still ongoing. We had two currently recruited with one by Teya Caple-Woods and one by Paul Felton in England.

Motion to accept made by John Groot, seconded by Dave Wierowski. Motion approved.



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Bob Somogyi reported that the Spring issue was out. Comment that it was a beautiful issue. Summer issue will be in the mail June 1st. Would like to add data on the 2019 convention as a teaser and maybe a notice of the 2020 site. Dave Wierowski had a correction of page 25 of the current magazine issue.

Motion to accept made by Dave Wierowski, seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion passed.

Marshall reported on the status of the conventions as follows:

- 1) St. Louis convention in 2020. Presentation was sent to the board. The convention was in St. Louis in 1995. Sunday would be registration and convention room. Events discussed were the Transportation museum, bus out with BBQ lunch. The museum has improved with more items under covered. Union Station is currently undergoing a restoration. Hope to be opened by the time we are there. Free day followed by a live steam park south of St. Louis (33 minutes). Maybe a shop tour of a local short line. For free day, local items of interest could include a brewery, zoo, and the Cardinals. Planning on a drag race using club engines only and a closing banquet. Looking for a hotel that meets the clubs needs including cost and location. As a motto for this convention, the phrase "Meet me in St. Louie" is being considered. Food pricing is also one of the criteria in selecting a hotel. Question posed to the board was do we continue to move forward with St. Louis? Dave Snow thinks we need more data and therefore table a decision until June Board Meeting. Further discussion was that we should move forward, and if we cannot solidify the hotel and other aspects of a St. Louis convention, look for another town that we would like to go too. Motion was made to move forward with planning and put a 30 day limit on it. Do not feel that we can put it off until June. It may be an issue that we could reach out to the club members and get their input. Maybe start on Sunday and close with the banquet on Friday. Will submit data to the board.
- 2) The Plymouth in 2019 site got clobbered by the storm. The 6 or 8 restaurants and shops on the side of the road facing the ocean may have suffered either wind or water damage. Marshall will go there in ~~Mid~~ April to verify the situation.
- 3) The hotel for the 2018 convention has 43 rooms booked. 35 registrations, but do not have 35 going on the bus trips. One input from members was for more garden railways. To do that we have to go to an area where there are available layouts, preferably though a local club. Buses for the convention are significant cost. Cannot downgrade to smaller buses this year like we did in Buffalo. On the goal of getting a track all the way around the lake, the question was asked if we have a count number on the track. Dave is still working on getting a total count. It seems like we are getting close. Dave Wierowski is going to go back and look over the dip in the sidewalk. We may need to build a



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temporary bridge over this dip. We can't put track in the grassy areas, but, have to stay on the edge of the path. We also need to bring some track for around the hotel. Setting up trains in two rooms in the hotel. Five members have asked for tables, plus Bill and Kathy and Bachman. Leaves a 14 x 24 space in this room for track. It is different from the first run. Illinois coal train will be running. Teya has a banana train with 40 cars.

Motion to accept made by John Groot, seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion approved.

Old Business (with action items)

1. Contact Dealers to Distribute BTOC Literature-Scott working on a couple of dealers. Get club members to get the message out especially through local clubs that we have members in. Can we supply literature that they could get out to their local shows?
2. John Groot comments that we do some good things, but not always at the same time. Data is not well integrated. We need to coordinate this data better so that we put a good face forward. Dave Snow looked at the Facebook members. 44 of the Facebook members are also BTO members which is less than 10 % of the Facebook page. We need to put a "button" on the Facebook page that outlines our club. Dave Wierowski talked about a video for the summer. Teya will put something together and submit it quickly.
3. Facebook is active.
4. York Spring Show being coordinated by Dave Wierowski- literature and back issues of the BTO is being sent to Dave for distribution at the York show.
5. Dave Snow will put some literature together for the Greenbrier show that Teya is going to with her club.
6. Just about all of the club cars are gone from last year. What is left may be used as prizes. There is one shanty left of a run of 40. We over ordered the quantity for the PIKO 40th 2 car set.

New Business (with action items)

1. Red Book Upgrade has been completed by Dave Snow
2. Revised Process for monthly prize selection and distribution seems to be working since January. Appreciate everyone's support.
3. Another opportunity for celebrating the 40th. Piko is coming out with a 45 ton diesel, one version of which is a track cleaner. It is a battery powered so that it can clean anything. Would not do a run for less than 50 units. Have a factory price to California. The alternate is a USA car with a Christmas logo



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that would be in a lower cost range. Scott thinks a Christmas car would be a winner. Consensus is for 40th Christmas car.

4. Dave Snow asked to reintroduce the 'Kids winter art contest'- from 1997. -This was a program that attracted kids in our program. - General concensus is that would be a good thing. Get notice out in next BTO and put a closing date of October. Could put winner on cover of BTO. Prize would be geared to the kids. Issue no 79 had this program defined. Dave Snow will update the rules and requirements.
5. The question was posed if anyone has done an update of the current local club listing? We think one of the clubs may have gone bankrupt. Bob is working on updating the list.
6. Putting a package together and would take cards, etc. to Ulrich. Send personal message, cards, etc. to Dave Snow. Ulrich is making progress, but very slow. He is wheel chair bound and has issues with feeding as he cannot control his arms.

Motion to adjourn made by Charles Bartel, seconded by Teya Caple Woods. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm EST.

Note: Jon Molesworth has added a section to the Facebook page to tell people about our club. This was done within a couple days of the meeting and the request from Dave Snow to have this done.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Charles Bartel, Secretary