



## *Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains*

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

**Date: June 17, 2018**

The meeting was held at the Bird In Hand Family Inn prior to the start of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary convention. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jon Molesworth at 2:40 pm EST. Present for the meeting were Bill Harryman (Director), Jon Molesworth (Vice-President), Scott Fowler (Vice-President), John Groot (Treasurer), Ralph E. Wilcox (Director-Emeritus), Ralph S. Wilcox (Director), Dave Wierowski (Director), Marshall Adams (Convention Chairman), Teya Caple-Woods, and Charles Bartel (Secretary).

#### **Secretary Report**

Minutes from the first quarter board meeting were submitted to the board members for approval via email, and once approved, posted on the website and in the BTO. There were no additional comments or corrections.

Motion to accept made by Marshall Adams, Seconded by Scott Fowler. Motion approved.

#### **Treasurer Report**

Our current status shows that we have covered all of the convention commitments and other club commitments. At the end of May, we had \$ 49,000 net assets. We will have a complete report of the club finances following the convention when all the bills have been received and paid.

Motion to accept made by Scott Fowler, seconded by Ralph E. Wilcox, and approved.

#### **Membership Report**

Jon presented Dave Snow's report. As of March 1, 2018, the membership stood at 346. Since that time 3 new members were added, 2 coming from our recruitment at the East Coast Large Scale Train Show (ECLSTS). In addition, 6 members reinstated their membership, bringing the total number of members to 355. Members deleted from the rolls were 15 in January, 6 in February and 10 in March for a total of 31, which brings the total membership to 324.

The exact reasons for the high deletion numbers, over the past 3 months, is unclear. A reason for the high number of deletions could be that over 60% of our membership is over the age of 70. Due to the higher age, health issues could also have been a factor, with members no longer having the ability or interest to maintain their layouts. Another factor also related to the age of our members, and commented by messages that we have been receiving from our older members declining to renew, is the fact that they are strictly on social security and unable to sustain the increase of yearly dues.

Motion to accept made by Scott Fowler seconded by John Groot. Motion approved.

#### **BTO Editor Report**

Due to family illness, Bob was unable to attend the convention and consequentially, there was no report submitted.

#### **Convention Report**

Marshall Adams reported that we gained one new attendee for this convention, but we lost two due to illness. That makes the total signed up for the convention of 69. That converts to about 129 people. The Wilmington & Western Railroad train trip is sold out. Bus trips are looking good. Lunches are lined up. Overall, we are in good shape.

Marshall paid a visit to the 41st convention site, Plymouth, Ma about a month ago. Remember that about a year ago, they had some significant storm damage due to the flooding. Despite the setback, they are back up and running. The Mayflower is not in port, and will not return until 2019. It is under refurbishment and is falling behind in the schedule for completion. The location of the convention is such that members can park their car and not need it until you leave. The logo for the convention was done by Bob Somogyi and is complete. The hotel has a three-story lobby. The convention room has views of ocean. Two museums are within a block of the hotel. 32 shops are within walking distance. Among one of the tourist attractions is Plymouth Rock. Rail Explorers is a possibility, but we need to review the physical requirements compared to the abilities of our members. Possibly use as an alternate on the off day. We are planning to spend a day at USA Trains. Marshall presented a video file presented to the board.

For the 42<sup>nd</sup> convention, a St. Louis hotel is under contract. Shops and restaurants are in the Plaza where the hotel is.

Motion to accept made by Jon Molesworth, seconded by Scott Fowler and approved.

#### **Old Business**



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1. Facebook—Bill Harryman reported that usage is picking up. We need a better effort to link the BTO magazine, the Facebook page, and the web site. Scott Fowler's web site along with a couple others have a link to the BTO. Currently, Scott approves one or two new members a week. Maybe an article could be written about the page for insertion in the BTO.
2. Dave Wierowski has registered us for next year's ECLSTS. It was a good time for the club members who attended the show. We picked up a new member each day.
3. John Groot reported that the Christmas cabooses are selling very well. Will take a pause before adding additional cars or other merchandise before we move on to additional items. Christmas caboose should be sold at the convention booth. Have six left of the sparky sets, two shanties, 5 sets of 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and 6 of the second run of the caboose. There will be a special car next year for Plymouth.

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

There is a Civil war enactment going on this week during the convention. John Groot is making flyers for distribution for the members that any want to attend on the off day. Might be a great event for a civil war fan.

We were unable to make a connection for a Bachman presentation during the convention. Any suggestion from board members on how to make a connection with Bachman for future activities?

Status of Urlich was brought up. We have a request from his friend in Germany for pictures of this convention.

Motion was made to generate a book and send it on by Scott Fowler and seconded by Marshall Adams

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.

Minutes prepared and submitted prior to approval to the BTO for publication by Charles Bartel, Secretary.