



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2017 Second Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

Date: June 18, 2017

Location: Buffalo, NY

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Harryman at 4:05_pm EST.

Roll Call indicated present: Jon Molesworth (Vice-President), Rich Dulski (Vice-President), Scott Fowler (Vice-President), John Groot (Treasurer), Bob Somogyi (BTO Editor), Ralph E. Wilcox (Director-Emeritus), Dave Wierowski (Director), Marshall Adams (Convention Chairman), and Charles Bartel (Secretary)

Secretary Report

Minutes from the first board meeting held March 6, 2017 were approved as posted on the Club's website and published in the BTO.

Treasurer Report by John Groot

As of June 17th, there were 64 registrations with a total of 104 people. Registration were received much later in the convention cycle than in the past. We had \$ 53,244 income. Of that, \$ 34,845 was from convention. As of now, using estimates of convention cost, we had \$ 9,000 net income. We have about \$ 3,000 in our PayPal account. Money from our PayPal account is transferred once a month to reduce the administration fees from PayPal. (Please note that these numbers came from John's P&L generated for the general meeting on Thursday and had slightly higher numbers that that presented at the board meeting, which were in transition.)

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

Membership Report (Note: Dave Snow has sent his report to Marshal Adams)

The membership base of our club has remained stable for the past four years, with a plus or minus 10 over those years. The current membership rising to 387 from 377. The combination of the Recruit a Buddy Program, magazine advertising, the East Coast Train Show, club website and Facebook page has offset the number of deleted members and has contributed to that stability. The charts and graphs that I've provided gives a good picture of the breakdown of the club. I will be submitting the charts and graphs with an article to Bob, to be published in the Fall issue of the BTO.

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

BTO Editor Report

Fall BTO is due 9/1 and will be the convention special. It will also have the nominees for offices and the ballot. For current board members who are willing to run for office again, the bios from last go around. These will be sent to all board members to use in generating bios for this election.

Relative to the convention, wrist band packets are all packaged and ready to hand out. Two different ones for Monday night, a convention room band (blue) that is needed for access to the vendor hall all week, plus food wrist band. First 100 registration get silicon bands that can be worn all week and are water proof. Others will have the nylon bands. Promotion signs for the shanty and the anniversary cars have been printed, as have, white elephant forms and the tour routes, north and south.

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

Convention Report

Increase in security this convention, especially since we have people coming to the convention hall that did not sign up for the opening buffet and bar. We will need to police those entering the food area.

Hotel has been very accommodating. Small disruption yesterday when we got ahead of the contract and set up train loop in the courtyard. They will not have power there until Sunday. Currently have it marked off with yellow tape. Special menu for breakfast was developed so that we can get people through breakfast quickly. Friday tours will be a bit of a scramble to get everyone signed up Thursday for the North and South routes and get the lunches to the right bus. There will be electronic schedule for the club on the Holiday Inn information sites.



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From the schedule, we are trying to get two people at white elephant table, one that did it the day before, and a new person to carry over to the next day. Charles and Rich are changing bus routes on Friday for captain. Charles will do the south, Rich the North. We have done the best we can with a tight staff to keep the convention moving smoothly.

At the club table, we are selling a white printed version of the tank car. Never been manufactured before. We have the red Hopper car to complete the set, one per member. First come, first serve.

Have a unique issue that we are seeing for the second time. We have people signing up for the convention, yet not signing up for all the events. Need to discuss how to address this trend for next year. In planning, the transportation is the big cost that must be signed up well in advance of the convention, and people registering but not attending events can create budget issues. Saturday may be a day that we have worn people out. Maybe we make it a fun day with the banquet in the evening.

40th Anniversary--2018--Bird in Hand Family Inn. Many activities being reviewed. Looking to run one train all around the lake. Build your own layout. Order sheet at the table for the anniversary cars.

Plymouth, MA--2019--Hotel 1620. Marshall has made three trips up there. The hotel that he was working on was sold to a developer. Cost will be similar to North Conway at \$ 149 a night. The hotel is across the street from the ocean. Working hotel contract. Will be a great venue room. John Groot made a comment that on the open day we buy tickets for events and activities and resell to our members, but not do a motor coach. This is possible due to the foot print of the location. For places where people cannot walk to and that are expensive, such as Steam Town, or other event we not buy tickets but see if we could arrange a discount and call in to the attraction if people show an interest. They would pick up and pay for the tickets at the attraction.

Motion to accept made by Rich Dulski, seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion passed.

Club Car Report by Marshal Adams

Anniversary set is half sold out at this time. Most of the orders have come from the web site. Note to board members, if interested, get your order in. The shanty looks good. Bob's artwork got excitement out of our supplier. Discussion on having a show special to decide how well a building is being accepted by the membership. Motion made to have a show special. Moved by Scott Fowler, seconded by Jon Molesworth. Discussion on what the color would be. It will not be white. Motion was passed.

Old Business (with action items)

1. Facebook—Scott has approved about 6 people a week, as has Jon. A lot has happen on Facebook with member postings in the last few weeks. It is being seen by a lot of people and getting us publicity (see membership report).
2. York Spring Show Report by Dave Wierowski -It was a good show, we had a lot of fun. In the future, the table raffle will be for new members only. Signs have been modified. Some additional work being done for next year. Given the success of this activity, showed we be going to the National show and have a table in the vendor hall?

New Business

If you are not running for office for the 2019/2020 term, please advise Bill Harryman.

There was no other new business brought before the board.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm EST

Minutes prepared by Charles Bartel, Secretary

Minute's submittal for approval by William A. Harryman Date: July 2, 2017
Bill Harryman, President