



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2016 Second Quarter Board of Directors Meeting

LaPorte, Indiana convention hotel

Date: June 20, 2016

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Harryman at 10:00 am CST. All board members attended the meeting except for Ralph S. Wilcox who was in route to the convention.

Secretary Report

Minutes from the March 21, 2016 board meeting were approved as distributed and posted on the Club's website. Motion to accept made by Jon Molesworth, seconded by John Groot. Motion passed.

Treasurer Report

As distributed for board review. Club income tax filed electronically. There is approximately an additional \$ 800 in membership account (as of the meeting). Dues, etc. paid to PayPal accumulates until it transferred from PayPal to the bank. \$ 774.98 will be transferred first of July. There is also a deduction to All Start and Stiches for \$ 904.25. Since we are on a cash bases, our finicals are a moving target. We will be starting to pay for next year's convention such as convention cars, etc. We are very healthy. We should be in the good of a bit more than \$ 3000. We are seeing a different trend in registration. Not everyone is signing up all events. Another issue was that there were few early bird registrations. We are still getting registrations at the convention.

Motion to accept made by Scott Fowler, seconded by Dave Wierowski. Motion passed.

Membership Report

2016 has been a banner show. Dave, Ulrich and company provided the club with a very good presentation at the ECLS show in York this spring. 7 new members signed up at York with an additional two by mail using application forms from the show. We are also picking up new members from web site. The club has had 14 new members in last three month period. Very positive membership activity. (As a reference point, it cost the club \$3.75 for each membership paid for through PayPal.) Coordination between John and Dave is working well.

Question was asked if we know how many deleted members were due to death. Unless we have notice from a spouse of a member passing, we really do not know why they did not renew. Tried to track that some time ago and found that not to successful, became very stressful to the membership chair.

Motion to accept made by Scout Fowler and seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion passed.

BTO Editor Report

Next issue will be the convention issue. Re-mention of calendar photos for 2017. There is also a notice in the goody bag requesting photos for the calendar. It will also be brought up at the general membership meeting. Winter issue will be mostly about the upcoming convention in Buffalo plus the calendar. Oct 1 is deadline for convention issue. A question was brought up about how we deliver it. One of our members gets his magazine by boat and it gets wet. Could we get it in clear plastic instead of paper envelop? Bob will look into that.

We should like to get more membership involvement in both the club and the magazine. To do that, two topics have been suggested.

1) In order to include members and collect our club history at this time, the suggestion is to generate a "ask Ralph a club history question" column. We would publish the question/answers in the BTO. This could also be a good way to generate trivia questions that everyone in the club would have knowledge of the answer. Example: how did club get started? Al Lentz bought an LGB set, instructions were in German. He was looking for someone to translate to English. Several people contacted him, leading to him putting out a newsletter. They then got together for a fun event in running trains and thus the first convention.

2) A second column would be titled "How did you get started with a G scale train?" Example: Short version of how Ralph Wilcox Sr. got started. Many years ago, Ralph saw a LGB starter set for \$100. He did not have the money at the time as he was young and starting a family. His wife said that they could not afford the \$ 100. She was pregnant at the time with their second child. When she went to the hospital for a baby, Ralph was able to find the \$ 100 so that he buy the train. She came home and the train was running around the coffee table. Her statement was that was the end of enlarging the family! Comment that this is a commentary of individuals in the hobby. Building a history of our lives that gets recorded in print. Are these good to approve?

Scott made motion to put into the BTO the questions as above. Motion seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion passed.

Convention Report



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LaPorte is all over the place with many changes. Schedule in the goody bag. We would like to move up board registration. We still have an issue with Hoosier train event. They are still confident that they are going to get the permit for the full experience. Other than that, this convention is ready to rock and roll. Bob found this hotel and we feel that this is a great hotel. Great building, great areas to set up for convention. Staff easy to work with. It is one step behind Mystic. Vendor hall is full. We had to turn two vendors down, as we were out of tables. Putting out schedule in Goody Bag. Need to address wrist bands with members, making sure they understand the importance of them. Gold wrist band is for today. Hartland day, we need support from board to break into two groups. We can only go through HLW in groups of 15. There will be only one bus. Could board and committee go on second bus? Also bring along our friends. Review of captains. Bill and Rich are captains tomorrow. Dave and Dave on Wednesday. Scott and Dave at Hartland. Ralph and Charles on Friday, Bill and Charles on Saturday. Goody bag went together very well. Banquet prizes will be great this year. Cathy has donated a bear once again holding on to the back of a convention car. We are in great shape.

Only one key to open rooms. It is at front desk. They have a list of individuals that the front desk will hand the key to.

Buffalo hotel is set up and under contract. We have a program for the convention that is getting put together a little ahead of the normal schedule for planning, thanks to Rich and members of his club. Bob has put together artwork for Buffalo hopper cars. There will be two cars in a set that will be available this fall and a third car that would be sold at convention. An order form will be in the next BTO and on line by the end of the summer. Proposed that the Club should buy 40 sets. A third car is proposed that would be available only at the annual meeting/convention. It is proposed that the club purchase 20 individual cars for sale at the convention. John Groot made motion to move ahead with these cars, Rich Dulski seconded, and the board passed the motion. The set of two cars will sell for \$ 119 and the single car will sell for \$ 50. John made a motion to buy 50 sets and 30 singles. Charles Bartel seconded. Under discussion session, move up the purchase of the third car to 30, but keep the set to 40. John modified his motion to raise set to 45, with 30 singles. Motion passed.

Touch base on 40th anniversary activity. Bird in Hand really wanted us back. \$ 129 per night that includes a buffet. There are some new venues that we can do that we have not done before. Propose to the committee that we accept the Bird In Hand offer. Committed to 35 rooms plus three rooms for convention. Scott Flower made motion to move forward with them, John Groot seconded. Motion passed. Artwork is being developed for four reefer cars from USA with 10 years of convention dates on each car. Four different color cars, but some commonality in fonts and date location, black bar across the top, 40th anniversary logo. Two sets of two. Need to watch the data rights. Artwork development started. Board decision made to move forward with these cars. The convention will be 17th to 24th of June 2018

Motion to accept made convention report by Jon Molesworth and seconded by Scott Fowler. Motion passed.

Prior to this meeting, artwork was developed for the Buffalo convention and submitted to the board via email for approval. On March 21, 2016, a vote by email was called by Bill Harryman to approve the Logo generated for the Buffalo convention. It was unanimously approved.

Old Business (with action items)

1. Facebook—Bill Harryman working on it. I seem to be going along pretty well. Please friend the group and check in frequently.
2. York Spring Show-Dave Wierowski – differently going to move forward. Please hold back a few of the BTO's at the next show to give to new members. This year we gave most of the copies on hand away the first day. Maybe mark one a booth copy for review by interested show guest. Booth position for next year will move a little bit so that we are a little more visible. Looking for additional help.
3. Club Cars
 - 2015 BTOC Work Train Derrick car. Sold out.
 - 16 members bought the convention engine to be handed out at the convention.
 - BTO work train is probably time to put it to bed. Tank car was way too costly. Make decals for a Bachman kit. Tried to offer value to the club members. Bill supports that we close this train, Scott agrees. Tank car would be great, but just does not seem to be going forward. Jon Molesworth made motion to end the work train series, John Groot seconded. Motion passed.
 - To replace the work train, how about a club passenger train? Tabled until we see the Buffalos club item and then move forward.
 - AML makes a nice 40 foot box car. With board permission, Scott would like to approach and see what the cost might be. Something else besides box car. Charles Bartel made motion for Scott to approach AML, Jon Molesworth seconded, motion passed.
4. Website has been improved and working very hard on it. Very easy to work with. Extending an off color club car in appreciation. John made for the off color club car, Scott Fowler seconded. Motion passed.

New Business (with action items)



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Discussion of older members. Living Dessert is alive and doing well. John Berry established it. We should make a comment on keeping tabs on older members and things that they have done like the Living Dessert project.

Get order form out asp for Buffalo car. Will be in next BTO issue.

Length of convention. Is the convention too long? Should be take out a day or two. Comment made that it cost a lot to get here, therefore they wanted to stay. Scott Fowler made motion to keep convention at the current length, Jon Molesworth seconded, motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11: am CST

Minutes prepared by Charles Bartel, Secretary

Minute's submittal for approval by William A. Harryman Date: June 30, 2016
Bill Harryman, President


