



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

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

Date: September 19, 2016

Time: 8:00 pm EST

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Harryman at 8:02 pm EST.

Roll Call indicated present were Bill Harryman (President), Jon Molesworth (Vice-President), Rich Dulski (Vice-President), Scott Fowler (Vice-President), Dave Snow (Membership Chair), Bob Somogyi (BTO Editor), Ralph S. Wilcox (Director), Dave Wierowski (Director), Marshall Adams (Convention Chairman), and Charles Bartel (Secretary)

Secretary Report

Minutes from the June board meeting were approved as distributed.

Motion to accept made by Rich Dulski, seconded by Jon Molesworth, minutes approved as submitted.

Treasurer Report

John was unable to attend the meeting due to travel. He submitted the treasurer's report via email to the board members prior to his departure. Marshall Adams filled in with a couple of issues John asked be highlighted. Cash is a little lower than he would like. Some renewable monies are coming in along with orders for 22 convention sets, increasing the cash on hand beyond what was reported at his closing date.

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

Membership Report

Membership is slowing but steadily increasing. Net increase of 5 up to today. Not many deletes. Dave has put together and disturbed some projections on membership growth. If the July members due for renewal do not renew it will only reduce the membership numbers by 3. There are currently 382 members. Five over the convention numbers that were reported in June. 11 new members for the year, minus six who did not renew their membership. Rich made a comment that Dave has done a great job with membership activity. The reports are showing us the effects of this activity.

Motion to accept made by Jon Molesworth, seconded by Ralph Wilcox. Report accepted.

BTO Editor Report

Need calendar photos badly. Only have 5 pictures at this time for the Calendar. Deadline coming up in October. (Last issue was full of LaPorte pictures that were great— Added my comment not made during meeting as I was recording the notes.) Winter issue will be mostly Buffalo information. And of course, the calendar. There will be an order sheet for Buffalo Tee shirt as well as an order form for a 40th anniversary tee shirt. Plus a second issue of the order form for the Buffalo cars. Deadline is Oct 1 for copy.

A potential advertiser of model railroad supplies contacted Bob for space in the magazine. Discussion centered on actively looking for additional vendors to contact and ask for potential ads. Bill asked if there was any interest in how the BTO got started? Or how individuals got started in the hobby? Bob indicated that there has been emails on this subject.

Motion to accept made by Dave Wierowski, seconded by Marshall Adams, report accepted.

Convention Report

Final – LaPorte Convention

Sent final LaPorte details to board. A great party, made a little money. We still have five convention sets left. Were 7 at the end of the convention, sold 2 of them since the convention. Rich made a comment of nice job for LaPorte.

Buffalo Convention

Sent out proposed budget by email today. Budget is a little conservative as Marshall normally starts the budget process based on 50 attendees. A good thing relative to the Buffalo budget is that we are going to Buffalo with all of the prizes for the convention already in inventory. With the cost already accounted for, there will be no cost in the budget for prizes. Marshall expects 55 to 60 registrants. That should give us 70 to 80 attendees. Registration has started, with some just doing registration to get the early bird rate and will fill in events later. With a larger number than 50 attendees, this should provide the convention a little more cash flow than indicated in the current budget.

Most of money needed to be paid upfront for Buffalo will not be paid until second quarter next year. A few bills yet this year and a couple in January but the largest cash outlays will be in the second quarter which will allow time for the money from registration to come in to support the money out.

Buffalo cars orders being received. About half have of them have were sold before John left for vacation. They should be in a shipping container due to arrive in November. Marshall is following the in country arrival schedule. The bus company is under contract. Arcade & Attica is booked for Tuesday afternoon. We will switch Medina to Saturday morning.



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

Convention committee meeting will not to be held until December. Marshall has been approached by 4 by non-board members asking to participate in convention planning and execution. About a third of the committee currently are not board members. If a board member wishes to be removed from the convention committee, please let Marshall know. In the past, it has been about 50/50. These four would allow the committee to achieve approach a 50/50 participation of general members and board members. Mention to these four that the committee is large. This is a way to involve more members in club activities. Of the four, one is from Buffalo.

40th Convention – Pennsylvania

Hotel is booked. John and Marshall will start working on potential day trips. Have looked at things in York. A bit longer bus trip, but doable. Club car graphics are being worked on. Have received permission from the 4 significant model manufactures that we can use their logo. Will put a logo on each car. Show them the final artwork for their approval, but we have written permission to use them. Current plan is to use one on each car.

40th anniversary Engine - Jonathan Meador of PIKO contacted Marshal regarding a new run of DRG 0-6-0 saddletank locos PIKO is going to make this fall. He was wondering if the BTO would be interested in running a club version of the saddletank in conjunction with the normal factory run. Our version would have all the same molded colors as the catalog run. The current Rio Grande loco--#38202--has a black cab and undercarriage, a green water jacket and a silver nose on the boiler. The factory has not finalized the color scheme of the new run. All printing would be custom on the club loco--ie--BTOC logo where the DRG logo is behind the cab, #40 for the loco number under the cab window with BTOC under the #40, and Celebrating 40 years of Havin' Fun, Runnin' Trains on the water jacket. Discussion of running 45 locos with white copy (lettering) and 6 locos for prizes and raffles in a 2nd color of copy.

Due to timing, proposition to run a club engine celebrating the 40th anniversary was submitted to the board via emails. The board majority by email approved moving forward with PIKO as found in a summary email message between Bill Harryman and Marshal Adams authorizing Marshall to move forward with the procuring the engine.

Working some pricing issues that have developed since the initial conversations due to some unforeseen factory inputs. Marshal is holding firm on early discussion on cost as he has a number that we feel will be accepted by club members and was agreed to in early discussions. There were emails concerning the fact that sound is a valuable asset in purchasing a new engine. Still waiting on delta cost for a sound version. We hope to be in a position where the member can order an engine plus the sound delivered complete. Would be the PIKO analog sound installed here in the states.

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

Old Business (with action items)

1. Membership Drive – Dave, anything more to say. Recruit a buddy program. 8 so far this year. Was 13 last year. 21 more members have come in through this program.
2. Facebook – Bill has not done anything with the Facebook. Suggesting to check out our web page and the postings that have been made. Teya has been posting many pictures which is a plus. If interested in one of her latest, check out the four posted bed with the train running around the top of the post. Please post.

New Business (with action items)

No new business.

Bill to check calendar for middle of December for fourth quarter meeting. Further discussion led to potential for a Monday, December 12 for next meeting. May be short, but we need one in the fourth quarter.

Motion to adjourn by Rich Dulski, Jon Molesworth seconded.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm EST

Minutes prepared by Charles Bartel, Secretary

Minute's submitted to the board for approval by Bill Harryman, President, September 20, 2016

