



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

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

Date: October 2, 2018

Call to order@ 8:00 PM EST

Participating in the meeting via teleconference were: Dave Snow, President and Membership Chair, 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

Secretary Report – Charles Bartel

Minutes from the last quarter board meeting were submitted to Board members and to Bob Somogyi for publication in the BTO, prior to board approval. There were no additions or corrections as published with a motion made by Dave Snow to accept the minutes, seconded by Scott Fowler. Motion carried

Treasurer Report – John Groot

Based on past experience, we are in pretty good shape for this time of the year. We have paid the expenses incurred for the 2018 convention. There was a small difference between our cost and our income from the convention and this is being used to cover the expenses being received for the 2019 Plymouth Convention. As we look forward to 2020, we have begun to incur small fees for this location. Jon Molesworth, Vice President, has been added to the bank records as a second signatory for Club checks.

Motion to accept the report made by Scott Fowler and seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion passed.

Membership Report – Dave Snow

Membership is currently at 321, a growing number. We recruited 7 new members and reinstated 4 members. This was offset by the death of one member and delete 3 others for nonpayment of dues. The recruit a buddy seems to be responsible for some of this growth, as we have several recruiting members achieving Gold and Platinum levels. In order to further awareness of our club and attract new members, Hartland Locomotive Works (HLW) is willing to put a membership application in their product boxes when shipped. This will start on an experimental basic with 50 applications. The application is a simple trifold and has been coded so that we can tell where the



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application originated. Will be placed in random products as they pack boxes for distributors. If this is successful, they will work with us to expand it.

Motion made to accept this report by Jon Molesworth and seconded by John Groot. Motion passed.

BTO Editor Report – Bob Somogyi

Has all but two pictures for the 2019 calendar. Has several commitments for additional pictures. Gary Ludwig was going to scan and send some pictures. Winter issue deadline was October 1st. Still has some time opening before the magazine has to be locked down. A short discussion was had on the pictures for publication. John Groot and Dave Snow have worked with Bob to solicit pictures for the calendar and for the magazine. Pictures of individual layouts along with pictures of club activities are needed. Do we want strictly G scale pictures? Maybe some real train pictures from club members, especially if the trains being ridden are being pulled by engines modeled by LGB and other manufactures. We have one full page ad and an entry form for the kid's winter art contest being introduced.

Motion to accept made by Scott Fowler and seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion passed.

Convention Report - Marshall Adams

We were able to put some cash into the treasury from the 2018 Convention. Hotel is booked for St. Louis, but nothing else will be done for this convention until next year. Preliminary schedule for the Plymouth 2019 convention was sent to the board for review. Note that the convention will open on Sunday, June 23 and the farewell banquet will be held on Friday, June the 28th. Build your own layout contest, very successful for the 2018 convention, will be in convention room with set up and judging on Sunday. They will be up for the whole convention time. Tuesday will be a sponsored USA train day at USA trains. There will be an open house plus a 20% discount on any purchase. A USA a train day was done several years ago and was very successful. We feel that this will be a great event. USA trains is a strong supporter of our club with donated prizes. Thursday will have membership meeting in the morning with the rest of the day a "free" day. Friday is stern wheel boat. Dinner will be Thanksgiving in June. Working on budget to get the numbers aligned with the projected number of attendees.

Convention car procurement being worked on. Blue version will be the convention car. We are looking at purchasing cars in lots of 50. From a manufacturing position, this is the best fit for our vendors. Working on a xxx (keeping it a surprise) car for the



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banquet. Still working on the complement (pre-convention purchase, site purchase, and banquet car). One who collects all will have a nice set.

Rail Explorers, an activity recommended by two board members and highlighted in the last BTO, would be a Thursday day self-event. They only have a capacity of 30 per ride. This would only fill 1/2 of a bus, or we would have people sitting around the staging area waiting for the next tour. This arrangement is not viable as a club event but would be great as a small group event on the free day.

Motion to accept made by Jon Molesworth and seconded by John Groot. Motion passed.

Old Business

1. Contact Dealers for literature

Literature to be distributed @ shows and conventions. We need someone to take responsibility for this activity. On the other hand, RLD and Pizza express have membership forms to pass out.

2. Facebook

It seems as if we have been hacked. Almost all of the new member requests are women with no train interest. We have been denying their applications. Of the current membership on Facebook, 47 of them have BTO membership. Are getting 2 to 3 a day that are legitimate. We need to establish a trail from Facebook membership to BTO membership.

3. York Spring Show-

Dave Wierowski is heading this activity. A discussion on a new member raffle. Dave asked if he should pick up a couple of cars (one per day) or will we take a couple from inventory. Two cars will be sent to Dave for the show. Teya Caple-Woods, Bonny and Charles Bartel will be there to support the booth.

4. Club Cars

40th anniversary Piko set is gone. There are two convention car sets, left. Christmas Caboose has three left. First shipment of the Christmas caboose should go out this Friday. Take a break on club cars until later in 2019 or maybe skip until 2020.

New Business (with action items)

1. Red Book addition

John Groot uncovered some issues with how our club is identified at the bank while setting up Jon's signature. As a result, he has sent an email to



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all board members with an explanation of what has happen and a trademark registration that identifies us as the BTO Club. We should not be using the incorporation name of L.G.B. Model Railroad Club Inc. We want everyone to be comfortable with who we are. He asked that the email and the registration form be added to the Red Books. There are currently only four copies of this book. President, Membership Committee Chairman, BTO Editor, and the Secretary have copies of this book. This is a collection of club history. A quick discussion on expanding the availability of this book was had including putting it on the Web page, protected by password and limited editing to select board members. Open for further discussion.

Survey Update Report

Before the 2018 convention Dave started to search out information on our membership who did pay their dues. On his own, using his own funds, he sent out a survey with a self-address, stamped envelope. Sent out about 150, but only got 20 back. Has also sent out letters to deleted members and only got two back. In general, the percentage numbers are good for a survey. We would still like to get more participation in this survey from the membership.

40th anniversary picture book

Teya Caple-Woods put a picture book together for Ulrich. She made a couple of copies, on of which was sent to Charles Bartel. After reviewing the book, it was added to the agenda as a possible option for members to purchase. It is a hardback book with about 40 pictures in it. Will send out some pictures for board members to look at to decide if we want of offer it to members.

2. Ulrich Status

Teya Caple Woods reported on Ulrich's status as of the 22nd of September. Motor functions are getting better, communication also becoming easier. He is still in a wheel chair, but overall show great recovery. Two packages were sent to him, one with the picture book and one with a club car set.



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3. Club inventory

Teya Caple-Woods as a new board member asked: Who has it? What is involved? Does it include our track, buildings? How much stuff to we have to do something different with at the conventions.

Hard inventory (that is recorded inventory of prize material, is held by Scott, Bill, Dave Snow and John. Jon Molesworth has a non-working inventory, i.e. material that is not inventoried. Most of our inventory is for prizes, either purchased or donated.

4. Design your own layout

Teya Caple-Woods is working on the rules for this event as noted under convention report. Do not have details yet. We have a lot of space.

5. Website updates

Teya Caple-Woods noted that the Website is not up to date at this time. She has been in contact with Lou, our web master. 2015 was the last update of pictures from the BTO conventions. He has no pictures submitted pictures from 2016, 2017, or 2018. Unfortunately he has not been at these convention due to health issues. Marshall asked if there should be a web site liaison. Dave sends new members and deletes to Lou to update the members directory. Dave Snow will take on a larger role in working with Lou on the web site.

6. Dave Wierowski commented on the following:

- i. A Hess toy truck suitable for G scale.
- ii. Dave Wierowski has put together dome observation trip. Contact him for details.
- iii. reported that the Finger Lakes Live Steamers has a updated web site. (They were on the Buffalo convention schedule.) Try it out if you get a chance.

7. Nametags

Scott Fowler, who has arranged for the magnetic name tags for board members, was approached at the last convention about members acquiring name tags and polo shirts. Scott would get them made up on a as needed bases. Not making a profit, but as a service to members. Can it be in the next BTO? Does the board think this is a good idea? Maybe a



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single sheet in the BTO with Scott's address. Board members agreed to move forward with this activity.

Fourth quarter Board meeting

Dave Snow announced a planned board meeting for December 4th at 8:00 pm EST. Some board member had conflicts with this date. Dave Snow asked that board members sent dates in December that they would be available, and he will announce a new date.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by John Groot, seconded by Teya. Adjourned at 9:19pm.

Respectively submitted,

Charles Bartel, Jr.

BTO Secretary