



Havin' Fun Runnin' Trains

Big Train Operator Club, Inc. 2018 Annual Meeting

Date: June 23, 2018

The meeting was held on Saturday in the convention room and was called to order by President Dave Snow at 7:32 AM EST. Board members in attendance were Dave Snow (President and Membership Chair), 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).

At the start of the meeting there were 37 members and officers present.

Secretary Report

Minutes from the 2017 annual meeting were submitted to the BOD for approval via email, and once approved, posted on the website and in the BTO. There were no additions or corrections submitted. Dave Wierowski made a motion to accept. Club member Steve seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer Report

Our 40th convention is almost over, and it has been successful. The overall analysis will not be completed for several days, but based on current information, we have done well.

Our principal revenue is from club sales and raffles. Our principal costs were food provided by the hotel and others, bus transportation, event tickets and prizes purchased from various manufacturers. Several prizes were donated by key manufacturers and vendors.

The club cash flow is positive.

I am happy to report that Vice President and Director: Jon Molesworth has agreed to be backup Treasurer with signatory authority. We met with Wells Fargo Bank this week and completed the steps necessary.

We thank you all for your participation and support and hope to see you all in Plymouth, Ma in 2018.

Membership Report

346 total members a year ago, 3 new members added, 6 members reinstated their membership bringing to total to 355. 31 did not renew their dues. There is now a total of 324 members. Drop in membership was due to many reasons including fixed income, members passing, or no longer interested. Trying to get data back from those that have dropped out and those who have renewed to understand members perception of the club.

HLW will put a BTO membership application card as part of the packaging of their new products.

Teya Caple-Woods made motion to accept, Larry Cromwell seconded. Motion passed.

BTO Editor Report

Due to an illness in the family, Bob was not able to attend. He is requesting that you send pictures of the convention. In addition to convention pictures, send data on your layouts, other comments on places you have visited related to train activity. Comments from Bob were presented by Dave Snow. Don't forget to submit calendar pictures.

No motion to accept required.

Convention Report

Marshall reported that we have had a very good party this week. Without our members, our plans are worthless. 70 registrations this week put us at the Buffalo attendance of 2017 and a little above. Number of attendees is above 120, the highest in several years. Bus trips were full. With the bus raffles adding additional activity on the bus, there was lots of social interaction to and from our events. Due to the rain this morning, we will be indoor for today. Drag race will be down hall way. Build your layout will be in the lobby of this building. Banquet will have a couple of surprises for members. Thanks to Kathy, HLW, PIKO, USA, etc. Please thank them when you see any of them.

2020 we will be going back to St. Louis. Have been there before and looking forward. We have a hotel under contract.



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We will go to Plymouth for the 2019 convention. We will run from Sunday to Friday due to weddings that will be held in this location. Park your car on arrival and walk to all shops and restaurant. Mayflower will not be there. It is still in refurbishment. The convention site is right on the ocean. The same video slides that were presented to the BOD were also shown at the membership meeting.

There is a logo design for the 2019 convention that is already done. Rail explorers as an activity were discussed by Dave Snow and Charles Bartel referencing their trips and recommendations.

Motion to accept made by Larry Cromwell, seconded by John Groot, approved.

Old Business

1. Facebook—Bill Harryman ask that you encourage your friends who post trains to get them to join our Facebook page. We have 60 or 70 of the Facebook friends who are also club members.
2. ECLSTS York Spring Show-Dave Wierowski ha submitted an application for attendance for next year. At the last show, we recruited two members. There were about 7 club members working the booth. Send pictures to Ulrich wishing him well. We had several members make comments on the show. Could we sell at the York Show? There are sales tax question for this type of sale activity.
3. Club Cars – Marshall presented that there is nothing on the horizon for additional club cars for 2018. Thanks for your support. For future activities, we have only a small number of vendors to make small runs. Will have something for 2019. By ordering minimum runs, we try to keep club inventory down. Hartland and PIKO are interested in doing club runs. John Groot made a motion that was seconded by Scott Fowler that all reports be accepted. Motion passed.

New Business

Nothing was submitted from board for action.

Today's three events will be inside due to inclement weather. We will be back in the event room at 5pm for socializing prior to the banquet. The Convention room with vendors will open at 9:00 am and close at noon.

John Groot added to his report that he has three years of tax returns with him if any member would want to review them. Also printed out a flyer on a camp enactment relative to Gettysburg battle field activity.

Thanks to Dave Wierowski for putting together the loop around the pond. Thanks to a number of club members for track, plywood, and labor to do assembly on Saturday prior to the convention. Generous donation of track (about 400 feet) from PIKO. Specifically, Rick Cruise for extra club track, Teya Caple-Woods, Bruce Laurence for track. Bill Miller, Jon Molesworth, Scott Fowler, Aaron Fowler, and Kyle Baird were the track layers. Roger Woods, Steve Vaughn, Mike Marinelli for tear down and packaging.

Question from the floor on our magnetic name badges. Could we make these badges available for club members who would want them?

Get your ballots in before noon for the Al Lentz award.

Thanks from Rick Cruise for the time the Board puts in and to Marshall Adams for putting the convention together.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Jon Molesworth, seconded by John Phillips.

Motion approved, meeting adjourned at 8:30 am EST.

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