

Big Train Operators, Summer Members & Directors Meeting
Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania
June 21st, 2023, 9:00 am Eastern Daylight Time

Board Members Present: Charles, Bartel, President; Scott Fowler, Ralph Wilcox, Jon Molesworth, Vice Presidents; Teya Caple-Woods, Tim Stump, David Stachnik Directors; Bill Harryman, Secretary, Marshall Adams, Convention Chair And, Bob Somogyi, Editor BTOC

Members Present: Thirty-Six.

Treasurers Report: Jon Molesworth, \$15,000 in Money Market, \$20,000 in Checking Account, \$2600 in Membership Account and \$1200 in the PayPal account. \$38,800. Net Assets with Hotel and others still to pay.

BTO Editor Report: Always looking for photos & copy. Also looking for help with the layout and design for the magazine. If you have these skills, he would appreciate help!

Convention Chair: Marshall Adams. Things are going smoothly, no real surprises. 113 people present, the largest crowd since Plymouth. Adams appreciates the support of the members. Train companies (suppliers) have also been supportive. Thank them if you have the chance. Covid has disrupted the Inn's hiring, the All Aboard Party was served by volunteers, and other events have been modified because of labor concerns.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: President Bartel talked about 2024 convention. They researched 15 hotels. None fully met our needs, may are still trying to recover from Covid. One restriction they had to include is if something like Covid hit, we'd be responsible for all the lost income, an expense we just can't handle. By this time, the idea of returning to BIH had been circulated, the planning process had started by this point.

Noted: Audience support favored (unanimously) returning to BIH for an abridged convention. Also discussed the length of bus trips, proposing a maximum length of about an hour and half. And recognizing that as we age, members are having mobility issues.

At this point Mary Wilcox moved we have the convention at BIH in 2024. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Looking Forward; President Bartel called for board member and elections this winter. One needs a short bio & picture sent to Bob Somogyi for the winter issue.

Larry Cromwell agreed to do a third history in 2024 – The History of Model Passenger Cars.

Mary Wilcox then said to think of the gathering, not as a convention, but as a family reunion!

The meeting closed at 9:40, followed by general conversations Towards the 2024 meeting. Bartel reminded the audience of the Podcast by Mr. Pictovid on You Tube – Large Scale Live.