

BTOC Board Meeting March 2, 2023, 8: pm

Present: Charles Bartel, President; Bill Harryman, Secretary; Vice-Presidents, Ralph S. Wilcox; Jon Molesworth, Directors: Teya Caple Woods, David Snow, David Stachnik, and Tim Stump. Also Present, Bob Somogyi, Editor; Marshall Adams, Convention Chair. Not present, John Groot, Treasurer and Scott Fowler, VP.

Minutes: Minutes of the December, 2022 Board Meeting were emailed to Board members and the Editor of the Big Train Operator magazine. Harryman noted that long-time friend of BTOC and Convention Committee member, Rick Cruise passed in late February.

Presidents Report: President Bartel asked if any of us had been receiving correspondence from anyone about joining BTOC. Dr. Frank Dunbar has expressed an interest in becoming more active in BTOC.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, John Groot was absent. Income for the January – February period is \$15,786.87 and expenses were \$ 794.14. The Balance sheet shows Total Liabilities and Equity as \$55,187.32. What is not shown, and has to be kept in mind are about \$27,000 worth of B-I-H convention expenses we've made, and not yet paid. All in all, we're about where we've been in the past. Please note, The Finance Report was approved by the board, with one negative vote. It was felt that we shouldn't approve the report without the Treasurer being present.

BTO Editor Report: The Spring Issue is in the mail. Officer and Board Member elections are coming up this year. If you are interested in running Bob needs a short Bio by summer for the BTO magazine. John Groot, Bill Harryman & Marshall Adams have announced their retirement, so will need to be replaced. It is a great opportunity to share in the leadership of BTOC.

Bob is considering running an ad in the BTO to see if we can reach out to more members who may have the talents needed to assist Bob in organizing, and other associated activities with the publishing of the BTO. Dave Snow did volunteer to proof read the upcoming magazines.

Membership Report: This report is from December 11th to March 1st. The report starts out with 256 members, as of December 11th. Since that time 9 new members and 2 reinstated members were added. One member was deleted, which brings the current membership to 266. An increase of 10.

Bird-In-Hand: (2023) Convention: As we've reported earlier, Thomas the Tank Engine is going to be in Strasburg on the weekend of our convention. Motel rooms are at a premium. The rooms we reserved in Bird-In-Hand are taken by BTOC members. We can get rooms (tho not many) in their companion motel, down the road a bit. The post-covid labor shortage is affecting us, we've had to simplify menus and make some changes in programing. There are three clinics' scheduled, Marsh will call a Convention Committee meeting in late April or early May.

Cincinnati (2024) Convention: Teya, David (from the Cincinnati train club) and Charles have contacted about 9 hotels, researched about another 5 or 6 that just did not show enough facilities on their web page to warrant a phone cal or visit. Currently, we have three active hotels that Charles is trying to get good data from. One of these took themselves out of the running due to their insistence that we pay for the convention room @ \$400 per room per night. Charles has a much greater appreciation for all the work Marshal has done for us over the years.

2025 Convention: Marshall reminded us that it's time to find a location for the 47th Convention.

Train Shows: East Coast, the show has been downsized some, we, BTOC, won't be having a booth there, but will have three tables at the Northeast Large Scale train show April 8th & 9th..

New Business:

Elections are coming this fall and winter. Bill Harryman, Secretary, John Groot, Treasurer and Marshal Adams, Convention Chairman are all retiring. HELP!!!!

Secretary and Treasurer are pretty much standard responsibilities. Marshall shared a list of his:

Convention Chairman

Club inventory

- Convention items

- Monthly drawing items

- Inventory at vendors

Club/Convention cars

- Concept with Bob

- Sourcing

- Pricing with Treasurer

- BOD presentation/approval

- Purchase Order

- Track Order Status

- Prepare/Send Shipping Lists

- Track Deliveries

Contributions to Club

- Solicit

- From Manufacturers

- From Hobby Shops.

Exit Strategy: Closing a corporation such as the BTO could take a couple of years. The law says the assets need to be distributed equitably to the members. It was suggested to form a sub-committee to establish an exit strategy. The sub-committee will consist of two board members, one general member. Several names were put forth; The Treasurer, plus John Groot (who has done a bunch of work examining termination requirements, leaving a spot open.

All reports were approved and accepted unanimously by voice vote, except the Treasurers Report.

Also need someone to help plan and implement the various Conventions. This person could be Convention Chair, leaving the Inventory responsibility to an additional person. The by-Law discussions were unofficially pushed until another meeting, perhaps at Bird-In-Hand.

Meeting adjourn 9:30 Eastern time.