

Board of Directors Convention meeting minutes

July 13, 2025

Helen, Georgia

Meeting opened at 9:05 AM by Tim Stump, President

Roll Call:

Present: Ralph Wilcox, Bill Harryman, Scott Fowler, Jon Molesworth, Tim Stump, Charles Bartel, Teya Caple-Woods

Absent: Andrew Finch, Dave Snow, John Groot, Dave Stachnik, Larry Otis

New Business

Tim Stump has explored the Scranton, Pa area for the 2026 BTOC annual convention. The Hilton Scranton & Conference Center is located at 100 Adam St, close to the National Park, Steamtown. There is no National Garden Railway Convention next year, so we would like to make this convention attractive to those that would normally go the NGRS and who would have a train destination for 2026. Breakfast inclusion in a BTOC room rate to be discussed. Currently, members would need to pay for parking at \$15.00 a day. There are multiple restaurants in this facility. The hotel is large enough that we should be able to meet our room requirements for our various functions. We need to make sure we can add more rooms without a penalty.

Besides Steamtown National Historic Park as a destination, there are many other train rides available in the area that the club has not done before.

Looking for an association with National convention in Nashville in 2027 by sharing some activities.

Charles Bartel made a motion to move forward with Scranton as the 2026 convention location. Teya Caple-Woods seconded the motion, motion approved.

Tim Stump to follow up with the hotel. A discussion was held on layouts at this convention. No decision was made.

Treasurer report by Jon Molesworth. Most of this years convention has been paid. \$48,000 and change in our treasury as of the end of June. Will reduce to \$ 36,000 with payments completed for this convention with another \$ 6,000 to complete the convention cost. By the end of the convention without the input from raffles, the club should have about \$ 30,000. LGB came through with some good contributions for the raffles and prizes. We did about \$ 2,100 in purchased items. Marge Cruise donated some items for the goody bag and prizes. Donations were also received from RLD Hobbies and Kris Dixon, some of which will be used

for monthly prizes. USA trains came through with a lot of support including a short turn around for the banquet cars. There are cars to be used as thank you gifts for those hosting home layouts. We are also hosting those local club members, not currently BTOC members, to the farewell banquet where we will give them their cars. We will deliver these cars to those not able to attend the banquet.

Motion by Jon Molesworth to accept the minutes from the last board meeting, seconded by Teya Caple-Woods to accept minutes with spelling modifications. Ready for Bob Somogyi to publish in the next BTO.

The club inventory was increased dramatically prior to the convention due to some large donations to the club. There is sufficient inventory to address the raffle and prize needs for the convention and still add to the monthly drawing inventory. Several items donated by the TCA will be sold in an “as is condition” during the convention. This sales activity will make a nice contribution to the club’s treasury as there is no cost to club making all sales 100% profit.

Bill Harryman, Vice President, former past President, Secretary, and Director has tendered his resignation after many years serving the club. He will not be running for office in the upcoming elections. Jon Molesworth has assumed most of the treasurer’s duties as John Groot suffered some health issue in the last year and was unable to completely fulfill the treasurer’s duties. John also will not be running for office this year. Thus, we have two openings to be filled. Current board members that will run for office this year need to get updated resumes into Bob Somogyi for the fall issue of the BTO.

Bob Somogyi, who was unable to attend the convention this year, is looking for articles from board members and club members concerning the convention such as pictures and maybe a small article about something that a member did or saw that others would be interested in for the next BTO.

We need to be looking for support for Bob in the preparation of and producing the BTO. Tim Stump has a list of skills that would be helpful, including knowledge of the current software programs used as well as other potential programs. Graphic design background would be very helpful.

Jon Molesworth and Ralph are co-captains for tomorrow. Lunch will be at the Twisted Tomato and will be a pizza buffet.

The time from 4:30 PM to 7 PM is open time. At 7 PM, the convention room will open.

For tomorrow, breakfast opens at 6 AM, the busses will leave at 8 AM. Return to hotel at 4:30 PM. For the Smokey Mountain train ride, the buses will be leaving at 7:30 AM. The Thursday clinic will begin at 7:30 to allow for a late arrival back.

It is noted that Board and club members working in the convention room to set up the layouts, vendor tables, etc. appreciated the entertainment value of the hotel having illegal parked cars towed out of the hotel parking lot.

There will be no outside layouts for this convention.

With no additional business, Scott Fowler made a motion to adjourn, Ralph Wilcox seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Charles Bartel, Secretary

Minutes approved by email October 27th.