

CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Minutes – May 28, 2020 Annual Membership Meeting



Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Mankato Annual Convention, the 2020 Annual Meeting was held in conjunction with the Board of Directors meeting. 18 active members were included on the conference call. Notification regarding the conference call was released on the C&NWHHS website the week prior to the meeting on May 22, 2020. These minutes are being posted on the society website, but the document itself will not be approved until a vote at next year's annual meeting. – Tim Coyle

Meeting called to order by President Mike Lenzen at 7:40 pm.

REPORTS

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the June 1, 2019 meeting were presented by Tim Coyle. David Nelson motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Dave Mikelson. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lee Tatum and Mike Lenzen reported on the preliminary Balance Sheet and Income & Expenses.

Overall – our total assets are \$681,471; total expenses of \$120,203 and total income of \$123,528

Due to cancellation of events, Lenzen noted that we will have to control expenses due to the lack of sales and convention revenues. There has also been a decline in magazine sales through the hobby stores. Only 22 of our 36 dealers accepted issue 2020-1; the rest declined due to being closed due to the pandemic.

Lenzen has also observed a decline in 2019 year-end donations. This impact is probably due to the new tax law changes legislated last year.

ARCHIVE BUILDING REPORT

Jeff Eggert reported that the archives is currently shut-down due to Illinois State mandates due to Covid-19. Our volunteers are doing some archive activities from home, but the Berwyn facility remains closed. This has affected projects and handling requests from the members.

Most activities deal with digitizing photographs – we have around 45,000 digitized – but still have over 100,000 more to complete. Also, we have a limitless of paper documents to catalog.

The members who volunteer their time are what makes the archives work. Thank you to the following members for their services: Frank Carlson, Craig Pfannkuche, Charles Stats, Bill Shapotkin, Walter Perlick, Jim Lewnard, Frank Herrnreiter, Patrick Kearney, Gary Jensen and Jeff Eggert.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Lenzen started his report with a moment of silence for the members who passed away in the last year.

Lenzen reported on Judy Lenzen's Membership Report. He stated:

- An increase in "400 Club" members – now at 20. Noticeable increase of 9 members during 2019.
- Contributing memberships are now at 573.
- YTD – new members – 34. 2019 new members at 110.

- Continuing to work with efforts to renew lapsed members.

Mikelson thanked Judy Lenzen for her continued work for processing membership dues and renewal activities.

OLD BUSINESS

ARCHIVE BUILDING PROJECT

Tim Coyle presented information on the Fund Drive:

- Totals are \$538,127 – Pledges are \$5,766 – Donations on Hand are \$532,361
- Wall of Memories Tiles are now over 200 sold. Deadline date will be extended since we have not started construction of the building.

Eggert and Lenzen reported on current contract negotiations with IRM. Final issues now deal with insurance issues.

The society will be responsible for fire/theft/casualty insurance. We have obtained approval from IRM that “railroad limits” will not apply for our archive center and we will insurance at “commercial limits”. These limits are at \$1MM per person., \$2MM per occurrence.

We will also be obtaining the builders insurance during the construction of the building. We are currently soliciting quotes for coverage.

Regarding contract wording, IRM is currently reviewing our latest revisions on the insurance requirements. We hope to have their answers back in June. Please note that IRM is completely shut down due to Covid-19.

MODELS

Accurail is working on Blue Rock Island boxcars with CNW reporting marks and numbers.

We are not sure when the Intermountain 60' Boxcar will be available for sale. Waiting on status from Kurt Hayek. Most manufacturers are seeing delays or are completely shut down due to Covid-19.

Discussion from Terry Davis to consider developing a Honeymead Products Company tank car for the Mankato meet. The car is pictured in the last NWL 2020-1 issue, page 38. While not a CNW car, it does have ties to Mankato MN. A car was previously produced. Jim Lewnard stated that his brother has the tank car and will bring it to the archives to review.

Concerns that this is not a specific C&NW car and manufacturer/minimum purchase quantity is unknown, the group will investigate further to see if it is a viable option for the Mankato convention. With the current income restrictions we are experiencing, this model would need to have a quick turnaround. To be further discussed in the Fall.

2020 MANKATO ANNUAL CONVENTION

With the cancellation of the 2020 Mankato Annual Convention, the Board has co-Chairmen, Terry Davis and Dave Mikelson, working with vendors to see if we can reschedule the event for May 2021. Due to concerns that the first hotel might not be available next year due to reconstruction, they will also look at the option of having the event held at the Mayo Convention Center and hotel accommodations with the Hilton Gardens.

Davis and Mikelson have already contacted most of the tours and presenters and have confirmed that they will be available again next year. The same agenda to be scheduled.

Our deadline to get the event confirmed is July 1, 2020. If arrangement cannot be confirmed, our other option is to proceed with the event in Sioux City, IA.

MODELER'S MAGAZINE

Michael Mornard reported on his efforts to continue publishing issued of **Modeler**. The last year has been spent trying to get articles. A second issue is about ready to be released.

What he would like to see is:

- Articles for all skill levels
- Add model reviews

To help expedite, if there are two-part modeling articles, the second part does not necessarily have to be in consecutive issues.

If anyone has articles to submit, please contact Mornard.

FROST & GRANGER PROJECT

Keith Kohlmann is researching for additional photographs and material on suburban stations. This is the last major hurdle. Should have more information/direction by the end of this year.

NEW BUSINESS

2020 ELECTION RESULTS

Lenzen thanked our two directors stepping down from office:

- Gary Mach – a director since 2006. Meet chairman 2003. Handled Green Bay area meets. Arranged the Fairbanks/Morse tour in 2015.
- Dana Grefe – a director since 1994. 11 years as President, 6 years as Vice President. Chaired annual local meets. Coordinated silent auctions at annual conventions and rail trips in the Des Moines area. Participated on **NWL** advisory board.

Thank you both for your service to the society.

Coyle reported on the election results for three director positions. One incumbent director – Jeff Eggert - and two new directors – Doug De Berg and James Lewnard; were elected to three-year terms. One candidate came in fourth place, Steve Rubeck.

There were 352 ballots returned. Six ballots were invalidated because all four candidates received votes. There were two write-in candidates, Dave Phillips and Frank Carlson.

Coyle thanked Erich Russ for his continued help in receiving and tabulating the ballots.

ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT

Due to our higher assets from the Archive Fund Drive, we are at levels that will require another annual audited financial report. JDP Consulting will again process the report for a third year.

UPDATE ON WEBSITE

This past year the domain cnwhs.org and the hosting of the site was moved to a new hosting company. The hosting and more importantly our domain name, is now more directly in the society's management and control.

The CNWHS website is very dated by web standards. A new website is under development by Jeff Eggert. The new website is using WordPress, the very popular open source website software. This will allow our site to stay updated more easily over time and enable more individuals to assist with the general maintenance of the site and content management.

Besides the main website the online company store and members photo gallery will also be updated. A new company store will follow in the path of the main site and be upgraded to a new platform. The legacy photo gallery consists of photos submitted by members. This gallery was created before sharing sites like Flickr and Facebook were as popular as they are today. The gallery has not seen new additions for a few years and will likely stay frozen in the current state, with a possible platform upgrade down the road.

A 'Coming Soon' feature of the CNWHS's web presence will be a new photo gallery consisting of archives material. The plan is start out with a selection of photos (slides, negatives, prints) from the archives collection. With time, other non-photographic material could be added, opening the gateway to a sort of digital online archives. While this is not full remote archives access by any means, it is a start and the direction we should be heading in the year 2020 and beyond.

While building a new website and the accompanying parts is much easier today than it was in years past, it is no small task. Our historical society is what it is today because members of the past and present have volunteered their skills and talents. If you have expertise in web design, especially WordPress and other current web software, please consider sharing that with the society.

PROCLAMATION: "A. JOSEPH FOLLMAR WALL OF MEMORIES"

At the April 29, 2020 Board of Directors meeting, it was approved to name the Wall of Memories in honor of Fr. Joe. The following proclamation will be included on the Wall of Memories:

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS we recognize his leadership was essential to the birth of the society, more than any other person, and lasting contributions to the formation and operations of our Society as one of its founders, and

WHEREAS we acknowledge that his contributions and generous record of service to set forth a foundation of volunteerism that has provided continual growth to our flourishing Society by bringing together almost 10,000 members in its first 47 years, and

*WHEREAS we honor his heartfelt drive and dedication in his research and writings to be accurate and informative to his readers, as well as his sincerity to share his knowledge and experiences though his numerous articles, books and as the editor of **North Western Lines** for ten years, and*

WHEREAS we appreciate his compassion, friendship, kindness and enthusiasm that have been beneficial in forming lasting friendships and memories to all who have known him, including his lifelong vocation in ministry and pastoral heart to many as a Catholic priest,

NOW, THEREFORE on this 28th day of May 2020, the Board of Directors of The Chicago & North Western Historical Society proclaim that the Wall of Memories of the C&NWHS Archive Center at the Illinois Railway Museum be dedicated as the

A. JOSEPH FOLLMAR WALL OF MEMORIES

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON COVID-19

Due to most of our membership being part of the high-risk ages (65+), the society will be looking at events and making judgments that will be positive in guarding the health of our membership. We will not rush in and hold activities just because restrictions have been reduced or eliminated. Each event will be reviewed, and decision made based on current status of the pandemic.

We will watch the finances of the society and make decisions based on current income levels. Due to the amount of people out of work, we also anticipate declining membership for the next year.

REGIONAL MEETS & OTHER EVENTS

The decision to hold fall 2020 events or not will be determined on August 1, 2020. Events included in that review are:

- Late October – Randolph meet.
- November 14-15, 2020 – Trainfest, Milwaukee WI. Dan Nelson reported that the event may be cancelled. He also reported that NMRA has permanently cancelled youth activities – mainly based on Boy Scouts going bankrupt and pending lawsuits. (*A few weeks after the annual meeting, Trainfest was cancelled for 2020.*)
- November 21, 2019 – C&NWHS Batavia Meet Batavia IL

NORTH WESTERN LINES

2020-2 is in the works and will be released next month. There are some great stories included in the issue.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS

No other topics presented.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Michael Mornard. The motion was seconded by Dana Grefe. Motion carried. Meeting ended at 8:49 pm.

Meeting minutes compiled by Tim Coyle