

Minutes of the May 15, 2004 Membership Meeting

Chapter president Bill Herzog

called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center with 21 members and guests present. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the March 20th and April 17th membership meetings, as printed in the May 2004 issue of Northstar News. The motion was seconded and carried. The treasurer's report will be presented later in the meeting.

National Director Marty Swan said he had nothing to report.

Trip director John Goodman said he had confidential information on a possible steam trip in our area, but it is not definite yet.

National Convention chairman

Dan Meyer gave his report. Responding to an inquiry, he said the schedule printed in the convention booklet is correct. The dates for several events were changed from those having been discussed in the early planning sessions. Dan said he is concerned the trip and hotel orders are leveling off. The convention committee recently sent out a reminder letter to those who had pre-registered for the convention, but hadn't yet sent in their orders. A member of the chapter who has been involved with several previous NRHS conventions predicted there will be a spike in orders in the last two weeks before the convention starts.

Samples were shown of a metal pin and a wooden ornament to be put in the "goodie bag" given to those attending the convention. There are only 15 seats available in First Class on the Duluth trip and not much more than that in Coach. The night photo shoot has only 6 openings left. The Minnesota Transportation Museum day has plenty of openings. We were able to set up an additional session for the Hiawatha Light Rail shop tour. The seminars and flea market have plenty of capacity. We have sold more than 200 coach tickets for the trip behind Milwaukee Road steamer 261, but that is far short of our allotment of 300 tickets. Doug Johnson noted that more orders came in during the last few days. On the trip to Osceola to ride the MTM's excursion train, First Class is at capacity, but we could accommodate more in Coach. We need more people to staff these trips and

other events. There will be a meeting of the convention committee tomorrow at 2:30 pm. at the Amtrak station. Dan emphasized the importance for chapter members to buy tickets to the trips and to volunteer as staff during the convention. This will be a chance to meet fellow railfans, not just from America, but from around the world. Those attending the convention will be a virtual who's who of railfan-ning. We need marketing ideas so we can get more orders. So far, we have had about 60 sign up for the shuttle between the Twin Cities Amtrak station and the hotel.

Dan Meyer read the report from **treasurer Joe Fishbein**, who was unable to attend the meeting. Cash in checking account, as of April 1, 2004, was \$6,599. Income from checking account interest was less than \$1. Newsletter expenses were \$113. Cash in checking account, as of April 30, 2004, was \$6,486, of which \$3,246 was in the general fund and \$3,240 was in the 8327 fund. Chapter membership is 86, of whom 79 have renewed for 2004. Several years ago, we did a membership application brochure. It was anticipated some of those attending the convention will want to take out a membership in the chapter. It was suggested to update the brochure and to have more copies printed. It would also be a good recruiting tool for the chapter at train shows and on fan trips. It was remembered we hadn't approved the treasurer's report. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made, seconded, and carried.

Prospective member William

Thomas was introduced. He has a special interest in railroad watches. Bill Herzog gave a report on the 8327 restoration project. It is still in place at Bandana Square and it will probably stay there, as it would cost too much to move it. Nothing has been done on it lately and it is probable that nothing will be done before the convention. Steve Sandberg said that he would try to get something done, but he'll be very busy getting the 261 ready for its trips. A question was asked as to how much it would cost to have it sandblasted - Bill said that it would be too expensive.

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Old Business - The Holiday Party was discussed. Mancinni's has said that they would contact Dennis in July. They will give us information on the date we could have it and the price. A question was asked about a 2004 budget for the chapter - did the board approve it already or not? Bill Herzog said he would check.

New Business - In the NRHS Newsletter Extra in April, the NRHS asked to have e-mail addresses for two members of each chapter. Marty Swan and Dan Meyer volunteered to be the designated contacts for our chapter. Glen Holmberg asked if anyone received a damaged copy of Northstar News. Several people reported that they had. Glen noted that he could print extra copies if people want replacements. John Goodman said he recently received a letter from **Dick Prosser**. Dick has a bad aortic valve and will need surgery. He described himself as currently under hospital care. Several people said that they had tried to contact Dick, but hadn't been able to get hold of him. He won't be able to come here to present a program in the near future.

The **annual chapter picnic** was discussed. **It will take place in August along the BNSF mainline at Maiden Rock, WI.** Everyone should plan to bring their own food.

The bridge replacement project at La Crosse described in the Northstar News was mentioned. It took place as planned. The St. Paul news-paper had an article about a controversy concerning a plan to extend a trail in Maplewood. This would involve removal of a little-used piece of railroad track. This track was retained when the rest of the line was abandoned because Excel Energy needs it to bring in giant power transformers to a substation that serves the area. If the track is removed, they would have to rent a giant trailer at great expense to move the transformers by road.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and carried at 7:57 p.m. The program was an electronic slide show by Dawn Holmberg of a trip to the spring NRHS Board of Directors meeting at Altoona, PA.

Respectfully submitted, David Norman
Secretary, Northstar Chapter NRHS

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