

Minutes of the June 19, 2004 Membership Meeting of the Northstar Chapter

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m., in the St. Paul Fire Department Training Center by Chapter President Bill Herzog, with 21 members and guests present. The June issue of Northstar News came out at the last minute, so it was moved that approval of the minutes of the May membership meeting, as published in that issue, be put off until the July meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Treasurer Joe Fishbein gave his report for May 2004. Cash in checking account, as of May 1, 2004, was \$6,486. Income was less than \$1 from checking account interest and \$167 in dues and donations, for total income during May of \$167. Expenses during May were \$104 in dues payments to NHRS national headquarters, for total expenses of \$104. Total chapter membership is 89, of whom 83 have renewed for 2004. It was moved, seconded, and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

National Director Marty Swan said he had no news to report. All the directors are coming here for their meeting at the NRHS National convention in early July. Marty will represent our chapter at that meeting, but, at this time, he does not anticipate being able to attend the fall BOD meeting in Utica, NY. Trip Director John Goodman said that restored Canadian Pacific steam engine #2816 is in town, running excursions. It will leave Minneapolis Junction for Glenwood on July 7th on its way back to Canada. People can buy tickets for various segments of the trip back to Canada - those interested should see the Friends of 261 website. If enough people are interested, they could share a car back from Glenwood (or a bus return option is available.) Bill Herzog said that he had a copy of the flyer on the trip.

Dan Meyer gave the report for the National Convention committee. The convention starts a week from next Tuesday. Dan noted that we could generally use more help with the convention. For example, we need help Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. (during the seminars.) We need one more bus host for the Minnesota Zephyr dinner train trip on Tuesday. We have enough people for bus hosts on the trip to Duluth Wednesday, the railfan tour, the trip to the Mall of America, the Thursday and Friday events, might need one more person on the trip Saturday to help dis-tribute box lunches in coach, plus need one more bus host. On Sunday, we'll need photo

line enforcers. Car hosts get small 2-way radios and cell phones to help them keep in touch. There will be a training class this Tuesday evening. The in-bound shuttle from the Twin City Amtrak station is covered except for Friday night. We may need some people for the outbound trips. Dan talked about the capacity of the various events and said that we are doing well in filling them. The trip to Duluth has 11 openings left, the night photo shoot is sold out, the 261 trip has 17 seats available in coach and two more in First Class, and the banquet has sold 265 meals out of a total capacity of 400. The Osceola trip to the MTM's excursion train is near capacity and there are 19 seats left on the Minnesota Zephyr. There were 500 pre-registrations, of whom about 300 actually registered for the convention. We will have 600 goodie bags packed. Scripts have been prepared for the car hosts and the Trip Guide is ready. Dan gave thanks to those who worked to put the convention together. Seven private cars are coming - John Goodman listed them. Bill Herzog had a sample of the goody bag and the items that will be in it. The Friday flea market of railroad items will be open to the public, but not the other events of the convention. Of the 50 tables possible, 44 have been sold. Bill Herzog said he was impressed everyone involved has been working so hard.

The chapter will have its annual picnic instead of the August meeting. Kurt Peterson is coordinating the event. It will be at Maiden Rock, WI, which is along the BNSF mainline. There is a convenience store there. There are grills in the park and there might be a picnic table or two, but it was suggested for those coming, to bring their own chairs. Possible routes to Maiden Rock, include going to Red Wing and crossing the Mississippi there and continuing on the Wisconsin side, or crossing at Prescott, and continuing south from there. The park in Maiden Rock is Veteran's Park. The picnic will be on the third Saturday in August, which will be the 21st.

Getting back to the convention briefly, Bill Herzog listed the doorprizes to be given out.

Old Business - The status of the 8327 restoration project was discussed. Bill Herzog said he had talked briefly to Steve Sandberg - Steve hopes to work on it later this summer. John Goodman reported Dick Prosser is in the hospital after having had surgery. Clark Johnson said that he

had suggested to Prosser that he designate the chapter as recipient of his collection of vintage rail slides. It was noted John Cartwright is our chapter historian. The chapter's Board of Directors had been polled by phone about the proposed 2004 budget. Everyone voted to approve the proposed budget. Another question came up about the 8327 restoration project: Will the planned work exhaust the 8327 fund? This was discussed. Also discussed were whether we need a maintenance fund after the project is completed and whether we would lose the NRHS grant if nothing gets done.

New Business - A question was asked about the convention of the Milwaukee Road Historical Society. It ends tonight. Bill Herzog said he saw the trip leave earlier today.

It was noted the Skytop Lounge is Amtrak compatible. There will be three trips tomorrow, but they will be employee only or employee and guest only.

Adjournment was moved, seconded, and carried at 8:04 p.m. The program was a professional video tape on Ross Rowland, famous for his operation of restored steam locomotives, and a tape of a ride on the new Hiawatha Light Rail line in Minneapolis, which will open to the public later this month.

Respectfully submitted, David Norman, Northstar Chapter Secretary.

NORTHSTAR NEWS

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