



NORTHSTAR NEWS

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Meeting Notice

The Next meeting of the Northstar Chapter of the NRHS will be held **Saturday Sept 20, 2014 6:30 pm**, at Roseville Lutheran Church at 1215 Roselawn Avenue, midway between Lexington and Hamline Avenues in Roseville.

See map on page 2.

Probable Program after the meeting –
Vintage Railroad Slides by Greg Smith from his collection.

There will be a pre-meeting get-together at the Keys Cafe and Bakery at the northeast corner of Lexington and Larpenteur starting about 5:00 pm. PLEASE CALL Bob Clarkson at 651-636-2323 and leave a message with your name and the number of persons coming with you.

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April 26, 27 NRHS Board Meeting Report –by John Goodman (edited)

Greg Molloy on Sunday took quite a bit of time to lecture those assembled about how dues renewals for 2014 are down 5% according to the latest On Board report. Last year we sat at 86% verses this year at 81%.

Greg mentioned that certain chapters are changing their own by-laws to allow for people to be chapter members only and not join the National at all. Greg said (and he is correct) that the National by-laws specify that anyone joining a chapter MUST also belong to the National group. This is not being done by several chapters, and these members are not legal. Greg (after much discussion) told his Relationship Committee to have an answer by the summer convention to this problem. He mentioned that several chapters (not us) have refused to submit any dues money to the national office. Greg mentioned that one solution would be to "pull" the charter from that chapter. Another answer might be to charge such chapters a franchise fee to belong to the NRHS, if they refused to follow the by-laws of the National organization. A question was asked from the floor to Greg as to what actually does the National office provide to the chapters? He did not answer this question. Several of those attending this Sunday meeting got up and explained to Greg that in each case of non-renewal, those folks told the chapter that the dues increase and new way of paying for dues in 2015, what with the two payments necessary, one to the National with a credit card or paypal, and the second to the local chapter, was inconvenient. Another criticism mentioned was the last few bulletins content was very poor. Jeff Smith answered by saying that our publication (unlike Trains, Railpace, etc) is the only RR publication that can devote a full issue to one subject. The biggest problem now facing the NRHS (besides the above) is with Fernley & Fernley. The accounting department seems to have problems in documenting the NRHS financial records. We are unable to fill the necessary IRS form 990, due 6/15/14 due to these accounting problems with Fernley & Fernley staff. Greg reported that losses to the NRHS in 2013 were larger than expected. Our auditors (EGA) are unable to make a 2013 audit due to the accounting problems with the data that Fernley & Fernley is trying to provide. Greg said that quote: "I just don't believe the data given to us from Fernley & Fernley". The Fernley & Fernley contract is due to be renewed by 4/30/14, but due to the many problems with the audit, the NRHS is requesting a 60 day extension until 6/30/14, which the management of Fernley & Fernley has agreed to allow. Because of the above problems. NRHS is unable to produce a 2014 budget at this time. A motion was approved to continue with a 80% budget from the 2013 budget. Because of the above...NRHS has hired an audit oversight group under James Little to review the data that EGA was not able to, and make some sense out of it. The group is called the Part Time Controller Group. The NRHS Privacy Policy (Jeff Smith and John F.) is not yet ready and will be delayed until the summer convention meeting.

NRHS President Gregory Malloy Requested that we Report His view of NRHS Board Meeting April 26,27 2014

From: Gregory Molloy <<mailto:gregorymolloy@yahoo.com>>

Sent:* Monday, May 12, 2014 1:46 PM

Subject: Response to Report in Northstar News, May 2014

I was disturbed to read a report about the NRHS April Board of Directors meeting on page 5 of the May 2014 Northstar News. This report contains numerous inaccurate statements, misleading statements taken out of context, and several instances of the author's personal opinion being presented as fact.

What is most disturbing is that some of the many erroneous statements are structured to imply that they are either things I said or were otherwise reported to the Board of Directors by NRHS management. If the Northstar Chapter wishes to publish inaccurate information, that is one thing. But to also imply that this misinformation came from me personally or other members of NRHS management is totally unacceptable.

Let me address only a few of the serious errors in this report that are attributed to me:

"We were unable to fill (sic.) the necessary IRS form 990, due 6/15/14 due to these accounting problems with Fernley & Fernley staff."

What I actually reported to the Board was that the normal deadline for filing the 990 was May 15. For a non-profit organization of our size and complexity, this has always a challenging schedule, and we had filed for an extension to August 15, as we do almost every year. Such filing extensions are very common and approval is almost automatic. We do not expect to file the 990 by May 15, but we are on track to file it in June, as we do almost every year.

"Our auditors (EGA) are unable to make a 2013 audit due to the accounting problems with the data that Fernley & Fernley is trying to provide."

What I actually reported was that because recent draft financial reports from Fernley & Fernley contained information we recognized to be inaccurate, NRHS has not released unaudited preliminary 12/31/2013

financial statements, and we will not do so until we receive the audited financial statements from Padden Guerrini & Associates, our regular audit firm. The audit is proceeding on the normal schedule and draft audited financial reports are expected in early May.

"... NRHS has hired an audit oversight group under James Little to review the data that EGA was not able to, and to make some sense out of it. The group is called the Part Time Controller Group."

What I actually reported was that NRHS has engaged Your Part-Time Controller, a Philadelphia-based firm specializing in accounting services to non-profit organizations, to provide accounting oversight and reporting services previously contracted to Fernley & Fernley. The accounting management functions were a small part of Fernley's scope of work for NRHS. The quality of that accounting work had deteriorated recently following personnel changes and NRHS determined it was in the best interest of the Society to change suppliers for that specific part of the work. In a separate action at a different time, the Board of Directors ratified an earlier Executive Committee action to grant read-only access to NRHS bank records to James Little, an employee of YPTC assigned to the NRHS account.

In short, reality is somewhat less exciting than the recent reports in the Northstar News. NRHS remains concerned about the recent quality problems with the accounting management at Fernley & Fernley. These problems have consumed far more time and energy than they should have, and they have delayed financial reports and budgeting work that should have been done already. NRHS management is aware of the issues and is working actively to resolve the problems in the best interests of the Society.

However, these efforts are not helped by the publication of false and inaccurate statements in chapter newsletters, especially when done with the implication that those statements came from NRHS management. Such statements have a way of getting picked up and passed on in other newsletters until they acquire a life of their own. What is more alarming is a statement elsewhere in the same issue that the Northstar News will now suspend publication until the fall, so we have no opportunity to refute or correct these statements.

For that reason, NRHS must request that Northstar Chapter publish either a retraction of this article or this refutation immediately (not in the fall) to the full readership of the Northstar News. Failing that, NRHS requests the full distribution list (electronic and paper) for the Northstar News so that the Society can issue its own response.

If you need additional information regarding these or other errors in the article, I will be happy to discuss them with you. In the meantime, however, we trust this matter will receive your immediate attention.

Greg Molloy

President, NRHS

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- Proposed Trip on the Light Rail Green Line and the Northstar Line June 21 2014 -

From Russ Isbrandt and John Goodman: "It occurred to us that we just establish a tentative schedule today for the Green Line ride." ***The Green line is scheduled to Open June 14 2014 !***

-We leave 28th Ave. Station on the Blue Line in Bloomington (free Parking) at 10:35am Sat. June 21st and arrive at Target field 11:13am

-Leave Target Field 11:30 am Ar. Big Lake 12:19pm Unpack your own picnic lunches no other food will be provided

-Leave Big Lake 1:23pm

-Arrive: Target Field 2:12pm.

The rest of the schedule is speculative at this time.

-Leave Target Field on Green Line Train 2:21pm

-Arrive St. Paul Union Depot 3:21pm,

-Leave St. Paul Union Depot 3:31pm

-Arrive East Metro Station (former Dome Stadium stop) 4:21pm,

-Leave East Metro Station 4:34pm

-Arrive 28th Ave Station at. 5:03pm.

Please Contact John Goodman (Telephone Number and Email address on Page 1) between June 7 2014 and June 16 2014 to confirm Details

Report:



**National Train Day sponsored by AMTRAK was held
held at the St Paul Union Depot on May 10th 2014.**

Our chapter deemed it very successful as we provided free, some Old Calendars and Trains magazines (Duplicates) from our Library and membership brochures to many of the people who attended. Thanks to Russ Isbrandt, Gary Rumler, Dawn Holmberg, Bill Dredge, John Goodman, H Martin Swan who manned our table.

Our Chapter Picnic will be held Saturday July 19 2014 at Prescott Wisconsin from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM in the park just across the east end of the BNSF Bridge. Snacks and Beverages Provided.

Video is available for view of the first Amtrak trains (#7 and #8) arriving at the refurbished St Paul Union Depot (SPUD) May 7th and 8th 2014. For those that have computers and Web access, I can send you links to view these video clips. Please let me know if you want to view these clips and I will send you the link. R Tubbesing Newsletter editor committee.

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Address Correction Requested

