



BAGRS Board Meeting

Sunday Dec 4, 2022

Called to order at 9 am- Present: Mick Spilsbury, Larry Silverman, Gregory Hile, Lynn Gerber, Richard Murray, Ray Turner and Channing Cheng

Action Items:

Lynn to send Pix and short two paragraphs to Greg for T&T Bio article. Greg believes he received Channing's so all others have been sent

Mick: following up with Chicago Area GRS about how they help members with RR construction guidance

Mick to draft memo on Wild Apricot automated features and place on Google drive

Board to look at rebalancing districts and supervisors

Mick to obtain District Supervisor job description from Russ (or Google drive)

Greg to provide Larry with Convention registration information

Larry to send Mick and Lynn forms for banking institutions that need signature of new officer positions

Ray to create query to get Richard the contact info for live steamers and Russ the new member names and addresses in a more efficient manner. Same for new member names to District Supervisors

Mick to get Website review link to Board

Mick to get Russ to put criteria in writing for member convention work discount

Minutes:

1. Minutes from previous Board Meeting were approved
2. Agreement was reached to postpone the 2 Membership experience surveys to new and longtime members
3. An additional discussion was held on automatic renewals with more research necessary on how to make them work. Last month the Board approved the proposal to allow automatic renewal payments. Richard couldn't get in to BAGRs for 2 weeks. Asked for new password
4. A recommendation was made to shut down the vendors during the presentations at the Swap Meet- to be held at the Annual Meeting. Board thought this was how we already handled.
5. Finance-Larry provided the Finance report. He indicated that reports are completed on EXCEL spreadsheets. It was agreed that quarterly & year end reports are much more meaningful than monthly and that the quarterly report format is clear and helpful. Larry stated that he needs 5-6 days after month or quarter end to prepare information which doesn't always coincide with Board Meetings. So, for example the first quarter ends March 30th but he would provide the report by April 15th.



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Two bank forms (Luther Burbank and Mechanics) need signatures of changing officers. Therefore Mick and Lynn need to allocate some time to sign the forms and return to the financial institutions. Larry said he would send the forms and information on how to complete and return to the appropriate bank.

Larry again brought up the issue that our Mechanics Bank statements show what credit card payments are for, but that for the Convention payments, he doesn't always receive what the payments are for e.g. Registration, BBQ etc. Greg stated he has that information and will get it to Larry.

A discussion followed on whether we should expand the methods we accept for payment. It was pointed out that STRIPE is cheaper than PAYPAL, but PAYPAL may be easier for the member. No conclusion reached to change current processes.

6. Open Houses- There were three in October. Turnout was good, including at Just Trains. Mick reported about 70 people attended his and Rob Ronconi had maybe 100 people, not all BAGRS members.

For 2023 the Open Railroads will be different. Anticipate a "prequel" open house in May where we motivate people who haven't been open before --to open. Members who have opened before would attend and offer encouragement. Then there would be no more open houses until sometime after the convention. This would be a change in the main responsibility of the District Supervisors for the year

7. Rebalancing Districts-The board still needs to review numbers. Also waiting for the District Supervisor Job Description from Russ. It was suggested that we follow up for candidates, with people who might be interested (Frank Lucas name was mentioned). There are two District Supervisors that might not be renominated to continue in the position.

8. Membership Report- Ray provided these numbers: we had five new members this month. We currently have 300 active members and 13 overdue for renewal.

9. Marketing Report- Mick indicated we have over 1,300 followers on Instagram and we were only at 275 2 years ago; our YouTube site has three videos up and has had over 400 views. This is a good number but to provide perspective GR News has 5,000 views.

10. Live Steam- Richard stated that the last meeting for the year was at Rob Lenicheck's. The article for the T&T will just be photos, no written article.

Richard then asked about new live steam members. He has not been receiving any information. Ray said he is looking into creating a query that runs each month to get Richard his new live steamers



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contact info and provides Russ the names and addresses to produce their name badges. Ray also thought he could create a more efficient method to get names of new members to District Supervisors.

11. Website – 1st stage progressing on Wild Apricot. Interactions technical changes complete. Connections to all Wild Apricot will be finished next week.

For new members we will only get address and cell phone information for the application to join. Then the new member will be directed to create the rest of the information. New members will not be forced to open the by laws and terms of membership. The Board should be receiving a link to review the website next week. Still planning to unveil the website at the annual meeting.

12. Convention- At this time Dec 10th is last date to register to open during convention. So far 58 railroads are registered. A long discussion ensued on how and whether to reward members who work the convention. Russ has expressed that he would prefer we not allow all members in for free (they might join for a year and then leave to get the convention discount). This is despite the fact it will take a lot more effort to track the people who work and time it so they get the discount prior to registering (or it may have to be after). A coupon code or voucher was one suggestion. Creating a backend process was another suggestion.

It was decided that Mick will get Russ to put into writing the criteria that qualifies members for the discount for working the convention.

The schedule for open railroads was discussed but is not set in concrete and a few dates were not firm. So more to be determined

Mick gave an update on the North Bay portion of the convention days. 12 RR to be open. A catered BBQ with music is planned; Hotel is booked.

Discussion on buses and how they will get back to convention center for clinics was held but is in need of a much more detailed meeting on the bus schedules in general.

Greg mentioned some fun facts about previous BAGRS conventions. Details will be in the newsletter.

Completed Action Items from Previous Meeting:

Mick sent list to Russ of Former members to District Supervisors. Awaiting feedback

Mick and Larry determined that Wild Apricot cannot produce our P&Ls

Mick was able to fix GOOGLE access for board members, Rich may still not be on



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NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board will be on Sunday January 8th, 2023. The last two meetings of the board for this fiscal year will be 1/8/2023 and 3/5/2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:51 am