



BAGRS Board Meeting

Sunday Jan. 8, 2023

Called to order at 9:30 am- Present: Mick Spilsbury, Larry Silverman, Gregory Hile, Lynn Gerber, Richard Murray, Ray Turner, and Channing Cheng

Action Items:

Name	Description
Mick	Draft memo on Wild Apricot automated features and place on Google drive
Board	Review and rebalance districts and supervisors
Mick	Obtain District Supervisor job description from Russ (or Google drive)
Greg	Provide Larry with Convention registration information
Larry	Send Mick and Lynn forms for banking institutions that need signature of new officer positions
Mick	Investigate automated way (maybe only on new website) 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	Follow for Russ to put criteria in writing for member convention WORK discount
Ray	Check if a fix to allow members to get emails if they are changed to a "pending renewal" status
Channing	Make badges & food tickets for Annual Meeting. Volunteers need for registration table
Greg	Obtain new readers for the convention--but in time to use for the Annual Meeting
Greg	Provide dates for "preconvention" open railroads

Minutes:

1. **Minutes** from previous Board Meeting were approved.
2. **Finance**-Larry provided the Finance report. Net income for the quarter was \$10,980.56, which includes convention income. Mick mentioned we should separate out. Larry indicated where the quarterly reports do show and breakout the BAGRS normal operating from the National Convention. -Greg mentioned that there were some convention expenses from Russ related to the Hotel Space. He further stated that our payment process was through Stripe but now is through **WooCommerce** which uses PayPal and that registrants will no longer have multiple payment gateway options.



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3. Membership-Ray indicated we have 309 members. Two new in December. Mick found 80 people who had no invoice for their dues. This led to a discussion on how to encourage members to pay their invoices and also pay the Annual Meeting fee. Mick proposed creating and issuing invoices. The treasurer would create. Mick will investigate and send out more info to the board. Ray stated that if we change members to "Pending Renewal" they no longer get emails. He will check if there is a fix.

4. Annual Meeting— Greg mentioned he will meet with the District Supervisors at the annual meeting for a discussion about the role and other items.

- **A proposal was made to charge \$25.00 if paid before 3/12. Thereafter it will be paid at door for \$30.00. The proposal was unanimously approved.**
- Channing started a discussion on the budget for the meeting. He stated we budgeted about \$3,400 and that the space itself will be \$1,600. Last year we had 104 sandwiches and 15 salads from Panera plus breakfast. We will need more this year. He still plans to use Panera, but Costco for coffee, waters and sodas etc. **A proposal was made to allow up to \$5,000 for the meeting expenses. It was unanimously approved.**
 - Channing brought up that he needed a person to handle the registration and handout of packets at the door. This is usually the Membership Chairperson, however Ray indicated he cannot organize nor handle at the door. The discussion landed on volunteers to man the table.
 - Channing decided he will make the badges and food tickets. He stated Agenda is set - Jack Verducci is a presenter, there will be a website presentation and there is a two-hour convention update.
 - Channing also noted that he would liaise with Mick regarding registration set up.
 - He also asked if we have a reader to take payments at the door. Larry wasn't sure our current reader was operable nor if it had Bluetooth to connect to a phone. Greg stated we need new ones for the Convention so he will obtain some.
 - Channing indicated he would not stand for reelection to the board. Mick mentioned he has ideas for people and will also be talking to current board members.
- Richard mentioned he felt it prudent we sign up for the Annual Meeting to be at Hiller for next year NOW. Events are filling up. **A proposal was made to sign up now which was unanimously approved.**

5. Marketing-Mick provided statistics: Instagram 11,243 views since he has promoted popular posts; 4,913 on Facebook; YouTube 500. He found our newsletter was opened 230 times and clicked on 151 times. Mick further mentioned, he located 304 active members with 221 paid members and 83 delinquents. **Note:** the 304 does not reconcile with the Membership Chairs report of 309. Mick reiterated his proposal to create invoices (*see membership section of these minutes*).

6. Website-Per Mick, the tech handling the website is taking a week off. He sent Mick a link to review while out but unfortunately it expired. Tech gets back around 1/9 and Mick will validate and



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share the link to the test version when it is ready for user testing. He indicated the graphics are not complete as they are stressing the technical functionality first, so to keep that in mind as we review.

7. **Live Steam**-Richard indicated that there is a steam up planned for weekend of Jan 14 but that it may be cancelled due to rain. He sent current photos of engines under steam for the current T&T. It was suggested that while waiting for a fix to get Richard the names and contact info of new members interested in Live Steamers, a line could be added to the newcomers' email about the Live Steamer group and how to contact them if interested.

8. **Convention**-A discussion was held around how to allow people to sign up by phone and get reminders by phone. Not resolved during meeting.

-It was indicated the report of registered persons is still NOT available.

-Further indicated that no marketing in effect yet due to lack of reporting capabilities.

-Debate continued about how to reward workers at the convention with \$100. Mick stated that with agreement from Russ it was decided to rebate the \$100 AFTER the convention. We would issue checks.

-Per Greg we will be emailing convention open railroad members to see if they want a dry run "Preconvention". Will not email veteran open railroad members. So maybe 30 railroads will be open. Greg to provide dates.

-Ray still needs info to publish the booklet of open railroads

Keep in Mind	Completed Action Items from Previous Meeting
Agreement was reached to postpone the 2 Membership experience surveys to new and longtime members	Action to get new member live steam, badge and district supervisor information in a more automated fashion moved from Ray to Mick
Mick: following up with Chicago Area GRS about how they help members with RR construction guidance	Lynn sent bio to Greg for T&T
Mick to get Website review link to Board	

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board will be on 3/5/2023.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:44 am