



BAGRS Board Meeting

Sunday APR 23, 2023

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

Open Action Items:

Name	Description
Greg	Provide Larry and Lynn with Convention registration information
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 QA person to reconcile Convention payments
Greg	Do we/can we allow people to register for convention and get reminders by phone?
Greg/Steve Smith	Obtain new card readers for the convention
Larry	Set up meeting to discuss PayPal status for convention
Ray/Mick	Add a line to new member email about contacting Richard for Live Steamers membership
Mick	Research cost of single log on functionality for new website
All	Convention Zoom session to be held May 7 th 9:30
Mick	Ask Russ if we are producing more convention discount postcards
Mick	Contact 145 clubs to promote convention
TBD	Contact 30 Denver Vendors about attendance at 2023 convention
After Convention	
Roger/Board	Review and rebalance districts and supervisors.
Mick	Obtain District Supervisor job description from Russ (or Google drive)
Mick/Ray	Board to discuss if we should have an application fee

Minutes:

- Minutes** from previous Board Meeting were approved.
- Finance**-Larry provided the Quarterly Finance report (see Google Drive). We had \$227,314 in our three bank accounts as of the last day of the quarter (including convention account). Our net income was \$4,610.94 at quarter end. Convention net income to date was \$2,521.24.
- Membership**-Ray mentioned that we had 5 new members as of April. Around 40 members will lapse to former members this month.



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4. Review of 3/18 items— 69 receipts were sent to Open RR hosts. Included was a password and link plus their 2-digit number for their layout and a note about the refund. Three people had issues getting i to the site, which were resolved.

5. Marketing-Mick provided an overview of all efforts. Instagram and YouTube showed marked increases in followers. In the last 3 months, YouTube channel has risen from 350 to 17,100 followers. This is the result of YouTube's process of recommending sites to watch including for our Live Steam, where YouTube showed us as an "up next" video to watch.

Our newsletter was also opened more than before and clicked on more often than in previous months. The NGRC website had 465 views, 2,229 page views and 655 sessions. Traffic has steadily been increasing and 4/17 was a banner day. Greg indicated that the top referrals to our site were: Railserve.com, MyLargeScale.com, Reindeer Press and Trains.com

6. Website-Ray recommended that we turn the feedback sheets into a list of what we should fix. Mick stated that most of the items were part of the original specs, so there should not be any cost. The feedback results can be found on the Google drive and should be in the "Shared With Me" folder (login to your BAGR account, then go to drive and then to Shared With Me). Mick mentioned again that the need to login twice is a Wild Apricot requirement. Members asked to double check if the requirement can be eliminated.

A discussion around whether we need an Archive section was held. It was decided that it clutters the website and is not needed. If we need old members' information, it should be found in the bookkeeping section of Wild Apricot. A question on whether we need to have a stress test on the website prior to launch was deemed not necessary as we really don't have 10's of members logging in at the same time.

Another discussion revolved around whether to launch the new website prior to the convention. Pros and Cons were covered but decided we will discuss again in May when fixes should be completed.

7. Live Steam-Richard indicated the next event will be at Rob Lenichek's. He also mentioned that they have been invited to attend the Dream Machine event in Half Moon Bay, but probably will not attend. There is a Roaring Camp event on Father's Day that they also will not attend, but the Danville Pacific group will be there. The Live Steamers had convention discount postcards that they were handing out to the public, but the supply has run out. He asked if we should produce more.

8. Convention-Very few BAGRs members are signing up for events. The overall status as best we can tell: Roaring Camp: late seating 90 and early seating 65; wine train 42; 80 people for North Bay BBQ; (100 is the limit); car sold 22; ice cream social 56; Banquet 70.



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The hours for events will be updated on the convention calendar. There are currently no specifics on the clinic schedules. We also still need to convert those interested in Bus transportation to actual registration.

For the Pre-Convention open railroads, we only have between 5-10 interested. Greg sent out an email and asked for a response by May 1st.

For Public Day we will ask other clubs to promote. Larry mentioned that posting on Next Door might be a good way to publicize the event to non-members.

Richard mentioned that the \$5,000 from Accucraft was received by Gary Whatley (payable to BAGRs).

Mick reminded all board members that the videos of layouts must be approved by the railroad owners

Keep in Mind	Completed Action Items from Previous Meeting
Agreement was reached to postpone the 2 Membership experience surveys to new and longtime members	BAGRs Website user tested & notes recorded
Mick: following up with Chicago Area GRS about how they help members with RR construction guidance	All Open RR hosts registered for convention at no cost Open RR images shared with Russ
Mick: Moved draft memo and discovery of automated features on Wild Apricot to after website review	Convention early bird pricing replaced with final
Mick Follow for Russ to put criteria in writing for member convention WORK discount	
Larry send Mick and Lynn forms for banking institutions that need signature of new officer positions	

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Board will be on 5/22/2023 at 7 PM. Meeting adjourned at 11:24 am