



## BAGRS Board Meeting

Sunday MAR 5, 2023

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

### 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--but in time to use for the Annual Meeting
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
<b>AFTER CONVENTION</b>	
TBD	Review and rebalance districts and supervisors
Mick	Obtain District Supervisor job description from Russ (or Google drive)
Mick	Review and lead discussion on invoicing for renewals
Mick/Ray	Board to discuss if we should have an application fee

### Minutes:

1. **Minutes** from previous Board Meeting were approved.
2. **Finance**-Larry provided the Finance report.

Reminded the board that the formal written report is quarterly.

Larry brought up questions on PayPal status related to Convention. We need to clarify where the money is located.

Wild Apricot (WA) is up for renewal due in April. Larry mentioned the fee has increased to \$2,244 for 2 years. **A motion was made by Richard and Greg to approve renewing WA. The motion was approved unanimously**



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Sunday MAR 5, 2023

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### 3. Membership

Ray indicated we have 273 members paid for 2023. Also, 4 new this month and 18 new this year. 43 in renewal pending status. He reiterated (from his email) that there is an interim period where delinquent members are automatically turned into “former” members and that in the next month they are changed from “Active to Lapsed”. There is a manual invoice when a member pays but WA doesn’t update the renewal due date. It must be done manually, or the status becomes “lapsed member. He gave the example of James Kennedy. Ray provided a detailed analysis in March, including a discussion on last logins, how reminder emails work, and the current invoice process. After Ray concluded his report, there was a suggestion that we should put adding an application fee to the next board agenda.

### 4. Annual Meeting— Currently 106 attendees and 23 guests; 11 vendors. 133 attended last year

- Need door prizes. Mick will give Accucraft a call for prizes
- BAGRS T shirts for people hosting Open RR at convention will be given out
- Need a person to help Melinda. Lynn volunteered
- Still need door monitor. Ken and Frank names were suggested. Channing will print listing of attendees for the door
- Live Steamers will be held outdoors (unless raining)
- Suggested that it be someone other than the VP responsible for the Annual Meeting
- Roger Nicholson was mentioned as nominee for board

5. **Marketing**-Mick provided a report on Google drive. He said our YouTube has video or will have video of the Convention Open Railroad Gardens (RR). Roger Nicholson will focus on this effort. Additionally, there are 500+ images to be used in social media

6. **Website**-When the new website is up, we will be able to track statistics better. It was mentioned that Google Analytics is being updated with new improved functionality and information. Mick indicated the website is four weeks behind, but he will still update the membership at the annual meeting. There are still some flaws. In the new functionality, minimal information will be filled in by the new member and then sent to the membership chair to create the profile. As an aside, Mick leaves for Australia on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

7. **Live-Steam**-Richard indicated the steamers would be doing some repairs before the convention. He has some high-resolution Live Steam images that he can provide to Mick. He mentioned that he went with Jack to sites for Jack’s upcoming presentation on the Ocean Shore Railroad and found a church devoted to railroad memorabilia.



## BAGRS Board Meeting

Sunday MAR 5, 2023

### 8. Convention

120 people registered for convention to date. Mick mentioned the open railroad status report. There are 20 people out of town or not registered for the convention. All have paid 2023 dues. Only one person with no images for railroad. The question was asked about how/who resolves problems at the registration desk. Greg indicated he would be there, and Lynn had asked Russ the same question and he responded that at the previous convention he remained nearby to resolve issues. It was brought up that we need a QA person to reconcile payments as they come in. No process or person identified during board meeting.

- Approximately 61 RR will be open
- Ray sent file to Russ to help shorten RR descriptions for publication
- All images edited to right size and contrast
- Will register all open RR members for the Convention as well as an additional 12 people
- Photos for publication must be received in April
- USA Trains will not be a vendor but will have reps available. They close down 4<sup>th</sup> of July week
- Vendor fee (\$400) gets a company/vendor 2 people registered and a table. If additional tables, they get additional registration
- Pico will attend
- Need Flatcars for Kids Area on Public Day

**Two concerns were brought up:** The clinic schedule is not completed yet and we need MORE Clinics; additionally, not a lot of vendors have signed up though Bob Guinan is working the 'phones!

-Preconvention dates will be May 21<sup>st</sup> and June 4th

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
<b>Mick:</b> following up with Chicago Area GRS about how they help members with RR construction guidance	<b>Lynn</b> sent bio to Greg for T&T
<b>Mick:</b> moved draft memo and discovery of automated features on Wild Apricot to after website review	<b>Mick</b> to get Website review link to Board
<b>Mick</b> Follow for Russ to put criteria in writing for member convention WORK discount	<b>Ray</b> was able to resolve allowing members to get emails if they are changed to a "pending renewal" and Active status. Put it in the saved searches- Members and TnT



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<b>Larry</b> send Mick and Lynn forms for banking institutions that need signature of new officer positions	<b>Greg:</b> Provided dates for preconvention
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**NEXT MEETING:**

The next full meeting of the Board will be on 4/23/2023. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am

Note: There will be an abbreviated Board Meeting during the Society's Annual Meeting on March 18.

Respectfully submitted  
Lynn Gerber