

Minutes of the November 11, 2023 meeting of the Winchester Chapter-NRHS meeting in the classrooms at the Calvary Church of the Brethren, Winchester, VA

Treasurer Carl Stephanus presents following minutes as our Secretary John Foote could not attend this meeting.

Attendance: 19 members and 1 guest

Meeting called to order by President Van Welton at 7:31pm. Van displayed introductory slides for most of the following subjects. To reduce time devoted to business at our monthly meetings, he also urge members to advise officers of future business subjects a couple weeks before the meetings, so the Administrative Committee can explore and discuss such subjects before the regular meetings

Minutes of the October 14, 2023 meeting (attended by 20 members and 5 guests in the Fellowship Hall of the Church) were not available yet.

Treasurer's Report Carl Stephanus reported Alex Mayes donated some postcards and the railroad postcards were added to the Chapter's sale album. Alex also donated a 2024 B&O Historical Society calendar, which Carl sold at a discount to the first member to raise his hand.

In a separate email to members is Carl's report of fund sources and locations, as of 11/10/23.

Junior Railroader Club Van reported on this Club meeting which took place during the hour prior to our regular meeting. The young participants were given wooden train whistles and practiced the grade crossing warning signal.

Carl also did a presentation on gladhands and air hoses, with Van and Kevin Horn assisting by holding the hoses and pretending to be a locomotive and freight car. Van followed with a discussion and videos on what air brakes do and how long it takes a train to stop.

Boy Scout Merit Badge University: Van thanked Noah & Therese Collins, John Foote, Jeff Jordan, and Trent Wolfensberger teaching the Railroad Badge presentations with him on Oct. 28. Of all the merit badge classes that day, the Railroad classes had the most attendance.

Nominations for the 2024 five Chapter Officers: Van appointed Therese Collins, Greg Dahbura, and George Hamlin to the Nominating Committee. Suggestions can be made to them anytime, and they will seek and confirm candidates, so they can present a slate at the January 13 meeting. Nominations can be taken from the floor at the January 13 meeting and prior to elections at the February 10 meeting.

The 2024 elected officers for the five positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chapter National Representative) will assume their duties on March 1.

Railroadiana Spotlight: Carl repeated the earlier presentation on gladhands and air hoses, with Van and Kevin assisting again. Carl thanked Greg Dahbura and his employee Alex Haines for providing the air hoses from a recently scrapped RR car.

Fairmont Section Gang Car: Van thanked Greg Dahbura and his employee Alex Haines (and also their truck driver) for moving the Fairmont car on Nov. 3 from Leesburg to Greg's shop north of Winchester. Carl visited the car on Nov. 6 and reports that it is intact, except for the missing drive belt, radiator cap, and battery box with batteries.

Although not finding the Fairmont builder's plate, Alex may be able to find some car history using the serial numbers on the engine and the transmission. A work plan with estimated costs will be developed and presented to the Chapter members for their approval.

EMD NW2 1000HP 1949 diesel switcher: Acceptance of this donation is pending, due to awaiting its physical inspections and developing the plan as where we will "park" it. The donor is not in a hurry for it to be removed. Members and others are urged NOT to visit it as it is on private property. (We will have pictures on Facebook and will email you pictures in the future).

Future of the W&W's Winchester-Gore line: Greg talked about the Gore sand quarry planning to close soon, thus eliminating revenue service on this line east of the turnout in the CSX line underneath the Jubal Early Drive bridge. Only future movements on this line will then be just locomotives infrequently moving to and from W&W's locomotive shop at Gore. Traffic on the rest of the W&W Virginia Division is heavy and increasing..

After this meeting adjourned, George Hamlin told us about his friend Skip Hansberry, who he met in college and explored railroads together. He then introduced Skip and his excellent color slide show of pre-1990s B&O towers (including interiors and employees) between Harpers Ferry and Cumberland and the many trains that Skip photographed.

The evening's gathering concluded sometime before 10pm.