

Meeting Minutes Northern Shenandoah Chapter, NRHS

Meeting Date:	January 11, 2025
Meeting Location:	In the Fellowship Hall of the Calvary Covenant Brethren Church, Winchester, VA
Minutes Submitted by:	Kevin Horn, Chapter Secretary
Attendance	24 members and 1 guest

Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by President Van Welton

President's Report:

President Van Welton called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm proceeding to introduce the Treasurer's Report and the Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Carl Stephanus, reported that the current bank accounts consisting of the Bank of Clarke County checking has \$4,985.54 (restricted for caboose and equipment) and Truist Bank checking, \$12,675.02 (unrestricted) for a total of \$17,660.56. There was a question about soliciting funds for the chapter for the restricted or unrestricted accounts. In response to the member's question Treasurer Carl Stephanus suggested that we prefer to solicit unrestricted donations. However, many donors are more willing to contribute if they know their money is going for a specific cause, and thus such donations are tagged "restricted" to encourage that donation and respect their wishes. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented was made and passed with no objections.

Carl Stephanus presented the 2024 financial reports and proposed 2025 budget of which \$1,391 for the chapter operating expenses (excluding equipment) which were emailed to the members on January 8. The budget for 2024 was \$963 with actual \$1,012 expenses and \$4,169 income (including unrestricted donations). These funds do not include any amounts for the Junior Railroaders (who will be meeting at the caboose, C207, as indicated by President Van Welton). It was agreed by common consent to approve a \$30 budget for Junior Railroaders. Included in the January 8 email was Carl's Equipment Projects Report of the restricted funds and expenditures for caboose C207 and other railway equipment. The total accumulated restricted donations was \$15,736 of which \$11,150 has been spent, after receiving chapter members approval of the three major jobs (and three small items approved by the Administrative Committee).

Two separate motions to accept the Treasurer's 2024 reports and 2025 budget as presented were made and passed with no objections.

Secretary's Report:

Kevin Horn, Secretary, reported that he had circulated the minutes to the members for the chapter meeting December 14, 2024 on January 10, 2025. President Van Welton called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented and seeing no opposition declared the minutes accepted as presented.

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Area Railroad News:

Trent Wolfensberger reported that the local rail news is mostly quiet following the year end (2024) holidays.

New Business:

To save time and effort, members are encouraged to present new business to the Administrative Committee (Van, Jeff, Kevin and Carl) for their discussion prior to regular AC Monday meetings, before each monthly Saturday chapter meeting.

Chapter caboose C 207:

President Van Welton indicated that there was a need for chapter members to serve as caboose hosts for public tours. He noted that there have been several expressions of public interest having access to the caboose, including February 8 Chocolate Escape from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and an open house every third Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. President Van Welton indicated that the caboose hosts will be coordinated by Vice President Jeff Summerlin.

Nominating Team:

Chris Collins speaking for the nominating team for chapter officers (consisting of Laura Wolfensberger, George Hamlin and Therese or Chris Collins) reported that they are searching for chapter members for two vacancies for Chapter National Representative and Membership Agent. The Membership Agent will assist the Treasurer and focus on membership issues. The nominee would ideally be able to focus on public recruitment efforts from representing the chapter at local area train shows. At this time there were no nominations from the floor.

Banquet:

President Van Welton indicated that the chapter's annual banquet will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025, the guest speaker is Bill Shafer formerly Director of Strategic Development for Norfolk Southern and more recently Director of Development for the Tennessee Valley Railroad. The Administrative Committee is finalizing bids for catering for this function. Prices for the banquet will be \$25 for members, \$35 for nonmembers and \$45 for nonmembers and membership for one year. When paying by PayPal President Van Welton advised adding an extra \$1.00 to defray the fees PayPal charges the chapter.

Newsletter:

Kevin Horn reported that the January February 2025 issue of the chapter newsletter, High Iron, was circulated January 7, 2025 resuming since the last issue, March April 2023. The newsletter will continue to be edited by chapter member Mason Cooper and proof read and circulated by Secretary, Kevin Horn.

Monthly "Railroadiana Spotlight":

Travis Workman displayed and discussed two items, a railroad caboose lantern and a journal box cover opener. Jeff Jordan speaking in the capacity of Vice President of the Winchester and Middletown Model

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Railroad Association again solicited railroad artifacts that would be loaned or donated to the Association for their new building which is expected to begin construction. Jeff Jordan noted that he will assume the office of President later in 2025.

Meeting Adjournment and This Month's Program:

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm followed by presentation, "Name That Train: Identifying Never-Seen-Before Slides from the Doug Russell Collection". The presentation was based on a collection of 100 unlabeled 35 mm slides taken years ago. Some technical issues prevented the full collection from being displayed via Kodak carousel projector. Carl Stephanus will digitize the remaining 40 slides plus some of the best ones from the 60 shown slides for a future presentation.