

## Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

Meeting Date:	<b>December 14, 2024</b>
Meeting Location:	In the Fellowship Hall of the Calvary Covenant Brethren Church, Winchester, VA
Minutes Submitted by:	Kevin Horn, Chapter Secretary
Attendance	35 members and 2 guests

Meeting was called to order at 7:51 PM by President Van Welton

### President's Report:

President Van Welton called the meeting to order at 7:51 pm, noting that the delay starting was on account of setting up for the Christmas party pot luck dinner and refreshments that accompanied the usual 7:30 pm chapter business meeting. President Van Welton proceeded 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 \$8,156.98 and Truist Bank checking, \$12,141.84 for a total of \$20,298.22. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented was made and passed with no objections.

Carl Stephanus subsequently noted at year end that the current chapter membership is at 101, a gain of 52 new members (26 regular added less two deceased regular members and 28 family members added during 2024). He noted that the March 2024 banquet was well attended by 75 percent of the chapter membership. He also introduced a chapter guest, Mrs. Douglas Russell, who is donating two marker lights, which Doug had used on caboose C207 and can now be used again. About 100 slides of the late Douglas Russell will be shown at the January 11, 2025 meeting with membership participation invited to name and identify otherwise not labeled slides.

### Secretary's Report:

Kevin Horn, Secretary, reported that he had circulated the minutes to the members for the chapter meetings September 14, 2024 and November 9, 2024 on December 2, 2024. President Van Welton called for a motion to accept the minutes as presented and seeing no opposition declared the minutes accepted as presented.

### Area Railroad News:

Trent Wolfensberger reported that there are several holiday train opportunities in the local area including Potomac Eagle, Walkersville Southern, Buckingham Branch, CSX (annual Christmas train) and NS (Santa to Horseshoe Curve).

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### 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.

### **Motion on SVEC:**

The Administrative Committee moves the membership to approve the following motion related to establishing electricity to the chapter caboose, C207: *The Administrative Committee moves the membership to approve an underground service trenching agreement with Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) for the installation of an underground power line to provide electricity to the WC NRHS caboose C207 at a cost of \$3,271.00.*

In the discussion that followed a question was asked about the electric bill which will be paid by the chapter. The current temporary lighting for the caboose is based on an extension cord outlet from the adjacent Winchester police building. There was a call for the question which was seconded and President Van Welton noted that the motion passed.

### *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 Winchester New Year's Eve, December 31, between 4:00 and 8:00 pm and Celtic Festival on Fridays and Kids Fest. There is also interest using the caboose as a background prop for announcements pertaining to the Apple Blossom Festival. There was discussion of the chapter deciding about some regular caboose open house hours and hosts for this.

### *Nominating Team:*

President Van Welton introduced the nominating team for chapter officers consisting of Laura Wolfensberger, George Hamlin and Therese or Chris Collins. He noted that the chapter is searching for help with vacancies for Chapter National Director and a Membership Agent. The chapter will take nominations from the floor (membership) in January and February with elections at the February 8, 2025 chapter meeting and officers will assume office March 1, 2025.

### *Annual Dues:*

President Van Welton noted that with the approval vote of members at the November 9, 2024 chapter meeting, annual regular member dues will increase to \$20 from \$15 annually and family dues will increase from \$1.00 each to \$5.00 for any number in a family, effective January 1, 2025. Members may now renew at the old rates of \$15 and \$1 until then.

### *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

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Committee is seeking bids for catering for this function and hopes to have a vendor selected for reservations and tickets to be purchased early in January 2025.

### Monthly "Railroadiana Spotlight":

Jeffrey Jordan made another presentation on the topic of "railroad lanterns" pertaining to those manufactured by R. E. Dietz Company, Ltd. (formerly R. E. Dietz Company), a major competitor to Adlake Kero. Dietz acquired the "Vesta" name of railroad lanterns and used this. Dietz manufacturing of lanterns was moved overseas in 1956 first to Japan and later to China. Jeff noted that Dietz lanterns were most popular with the northeast railroads particularly with the coal carriers, noting that back then Dietz lanterns were manufactured in New York. The lanterns were popular in part because of a much smaller chimney modification.

### Meeting Adjournment and This Month's Program:

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm followed by presentation, "Along the RF&P: 1960's to 2024" by chapter member George Hamlin. Mr. Hamlin showed about 100 slides of mostly Amtrak photographs taken on the RF&P under different times and lighting conditions.