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***VOLUNTEER APPLICATION – LONE STAR RAILS
 2008 CONVENTION 4***

Chapter Meeting & Announcements

***May 1, 2008 – Chapter Meeting, Garland Landmark
 Museum***

Program: **Tall Tales & Small Slides**

Speakers: **Members & friends**

Where: Garland Landmark Museum, 200 Museum Plaza, Garland,
 TX (at Museum Plaza, just north of State St., west of SF tracks. 1
 block north of Main St., 1 block west of 3rd St.) Map:
<http://www.garlandhistorical.org/directions.html>.

National Directors Meeting – Spring 2008

National Board of Directors, Syracuse, April 10-13, 2008

By Dale Wilken, National Director

The National Board of Directors held its spring meeting in Syracuse, New York, April 10-13, with the Central New York Chapter serving as hosts. A work session on Saturday and a formal meeting on Sunday were for the purpose of conducting the current NRHS business. A considerable amount of what was reported by the national officers is also contained in the latest NRHS News and concerned the move out of the Philadelphia offices and the transfer of administrative processes to Fernley & Fernley, the transfer of library print materials to National Library Relocations (NLR) facilities in Three Rivers, Mass., and the transfer of slides, film and video to New Jersey Rail & Transport Museum. NLR is consolidating, labeling and organizing materials not previously done and a representative present encouraged NRHS to have someone catalogue the library. Specifications are being drafted for the requirements for a permanent library storage site.

Information provided at the meeting included that 17 chapters have gone inactive in the last year and renewals as of the end of March indicate a decrease of 3833 members as many chapters had less than 100% renewal. Nearly all of the inactive chapters were very small except Heart of Dixie with 119 and Intermountain with 127 members. There were 15 chapters with 100% or greater renewal including North Texas Chapter. There was some discussion of the continuing problems of communication between Chapters and National and Fernley & Fernley. Christine Rockwell was introduced as the F & F lead for NRHS. National said that nearly all problems are being resolved. Bulletin progress was reported as the winter 2007 issue now in the mail, spring and summer issues in production and fall 2007 to be issued in June. The 2008 issues are also scheduled to be done by the end of the year. A new logo and website are being developed as part of the effort to better advertise NRHS, a “rebranding”. A governance study committee has been formed to make recommendations regarding the future governance of the NRHS, i.e. size of the Board of Directors. Skip gave a status report on the Fort Worth convention and representatives for the Orlando, Fla. Convention 2009 and Scranton, Pa. Convention 2010 also reported on their planning.

Virtually all of the work session was devoted to debating a proposed Policy on Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality resulting from pressure for a written policy from the IRS on NRHS as a 501(c)3 organization and applicable to National Officers and National Directors. It was stated that National Directors are nominated by Chapters but elected by the National Board and so are required to disclose any conflict of interest arising from any directives given them by their chapter which might affect their decision on national matters, i.e. dues increases, or reimbursements of expenses by the chapter over a certain amount. Also, that draft or unapproved materials being considered by the Board are confidential and can be discussed but cannot be distributed by the Director to their Chapter. The Board postponed action on this until the meeting in Fort Worth. It was suggested by NRHS counsel that chapters that are 501(c)3 also have a written policy.

Direct dues renewal was again considered and given the problems with the renewal system currently it was agreed that a more orderly process for system design and better information sharing on the system as well as system testing with a group of chapters during one year is necessary. Also, it was agreed that the option for online renewals be created which would be a part of the webpage upgrade effort. The matter will be again considered at the summer meeting and action on the proposal to implement throughout the organization for the 2011 dues year was postponed to the fall meeting and the current system will apply to the 2009 and 2010 years.