

2019 Rocky Mountain Division of NARCOA – Annual Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 1210, on November 23, 2019, by President Pat Green at Guadalajara Family Mexican Restaurant.

Those in attendance were Pat Green, Jerry Geiger, Richard Reiff, and Pat Duffy, Al, Jennifer, and Joseph Rodi, John and Donna Spiro, Chris Weaver, Doug Davlin, Jim Stone, Daryl Arndt, Ed and Steve Jaroscak, and Carol and Kenny Wilson

The 2018 meeting minutes were read back to the group by Jennifer Rodi. They were approved, as read, by the membership in attendance.

Financial Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Jennifer Rodi:

- Beginning Balance for 2019 - \$12,620.50, Ending Balance for 2019 - \$13,110.75 – Net Gain for 2019 - \$490.25
- Denver & Rio Grande ~ \$125 loss
- Leadville, Colorado & Southern – Summer ~ \$80 gain
- Leadville, Colorado & Southern – Fall ~ \$160 gain
- San Luis & Rio Grande ~ \$220 gain
- Cumbres & Toltec ~ \$695 gain
- Durango & Silverton ~ \$230 gain
- Towner ~ \$110 loss
- We had 53 paid members for 2019 - \$795

The report was approved, as read, by the membership in attendance.

New Business

RMD Excursion Membership Requirement

Currently section 4d of the RMD bylaws require that all participants of RMD excursions must be current members of the RMD.

- Solicited from other members the reason for this requirement in the bylaws.
- Jerry stated that it came about 6-7 years into the group about running exclusively on the Creede branch – Jerry has never enforced it – people are traveling a long distance and adding this additional fee could deter participation
- Pat discussed that the board does not feel it needs to be in the bylaws.
- Members discussed removing it, keeping it in as run fees may increase in the future, removing it but allowing EC flexibility, using the word “encourage” vs “must”, and making a policy verses having it in the bylaws.
- Members discussed that a few other groups require membership to participate in their runs, others do not. This membership includes a newsletter and museum access, among other perks.
- Richard discussed that this requirement could reduce attendance and result in a total loss for the entire run.

- Members voted to remove it.

Annual Dues

Discussion with regards to the dues – should we raise, lower, or eliminate them.

- Members asked what do we get for the current dues. Other groups have newsletters and such.
- Members discussed the price of the website and its fees – John stated that Philip currently received free membership – make a donation to the opera house. Jennifer will follow-up with Philip to pay for the website.

Port-a-potty

- ECs are hearing the brunt of the discussion about remote operations and the lack of facilities when nature calls.
- Richard discussed that other participants from other states talk about the trailer with the port o potty
- John discussed the need at Creede - \$140 dollars for as long as we need it.
- Jerry discussed Leadville – most of the frustration is expressed from out of town members. A few options down at the bottom – nothing up at the top. Long term plan is to have a bathroom at the roundhouse. Up the run fees or just use the options available.
- Members agreed that the port-o-potty can be covered from the general fund

EC Excursion Fee

In 2018 members voted to wave the excursion fee for the EC as reflected in 12c of the RMD bylaws.

- It was discussed if an EC has an EC-in-training or a co-EC that is doing most of the work can they evenly divide it or “one fee credit” per run
- Jerry discussed his Leadville situation – the cost of run, insurance, run fee ect. vs what the railroad is charging us for the run. Jerry maintains that a run is a lot of work. Jerry and Rob Small have worked many additional volunteer hours at Leadville to keep the fees at Leadville low.
- Richard discussed that as long as it is just one run fee it should not matter
- Chris suggested to remove 11C from the bylaws and add it to policy document
- Massive discussion by members and ultimately it was agreed to table the discussion and transfer to the board for further discussion and action

2020 Excursion Update

- SLRG is in receivership – all passenger trains for next year are cancelled – freight operations usually at night are unknown. Unknown who it will be turned over – Towner run has asked us to participate in their Santa run – Jerry is going to be the EC. Regular NARCOA insurance will be the preference.
- Leadville – Operations have made some changes; Stephanie Olson has retired and sold her interest to her kids. Still motorcar supportive – increasing non-scheduled train traffic

such as wedding trains and other special trains – added another car to the consist as ridership has gone up – more track maintenance – tamper and regulators and other MOW maintenance – busy maintenance schedule – special trains are difficult to run around – may have major changes in scheduling for motorcars .Adding a city sewerline to property line so that they may have a bathroom right there – Railroad is in the market for a new locomotive if you have one or know of one. – Have had requests for MOW run – exceptional snow year – snow did not clear out until July – Leadville plowed out so we could run in July

- Richard expressed the concern about both Leadville and SLRG running on weekends as there is not enough in the week to run to bring out of town people
- Creede and Sante Fe Southern – both tracks are in bad shape with vegetation Sante Fe – passable but not great – need some kind of mowing machine – no sense in trying to do an excursion until we can get the line in better shape – John spent 12 days and nights in South Fork working on the rock and other issues in Creede – April/May work party plan to clear rocks and branches – hillside is unstable – another boulder like that the Creede branch is done – required two trips and removal of the rail – a lot of work – Andy came over – two work partys – Once he was back in July the weeds had already grown back up – Sante Fe Southern – needs a mower –
- Al discussed a contact with another RMD member for potential runs with Great Western and Royal Gorge; Richard volunteered to be the POC as it moves forward

There was no old business proposed or discussed.

Election of Officers

Jerry Geiger volunteered to stay on as Vice President. Al Rodi volunteered to stay on as a Director-At-Large. By acclamation these volunteers were re-elected to the Board of Directors for 2020.

The meeting adjourned at 1310 on November 23, 2019.