

General Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2014

Meeting Called to Order by Society President, Dr. Mike Hartshorne, at 7:30 a. m.

Treasurer's Report—John Gibbons

Highlights:

Total Cash Assets:

September 6, 2014: \$54,867.99

October 4, 2014: \$71,621.16

No Major Expenses

Major Income: Net from Open House	~\$7,000	Sales, Donations, Superheaters
Benevity Community Impact	\$1,552	Donations

The Complete Treasurer's Report was received, reviewed, and filed for audit.

Safety Report—Jon Spargo

Jon said that four new members attended the Safety Orientation on September 13. Another Orientation will be held in the Reefer after the General Meeting (October 11).

Jon reiterated the preparations needed for the interior of the boiler to be painted safely. A new contractor said the interior might need to be re-sanded for the epoxy-based paint to adhere properly. The paint is both toxic and potentially explosive. Ron Taylor, Bill McSween and Jon have worked out ventilation and extraction procedures.

If we decide use this outfit, the contractor has requested that the work be done on a Saturday.

An unrelated but important safety issue is the problem of injuries caused by uneven surfaces in the siding grade crossings. These have been painted red and yellow to enhance member safety.

Chief Mechanical Officer's Report—Bob DeGroft

Bob discussed some technical issues about painting the boiler interior. He noted the temperature of the saturated steam at 300 psi is 417 °F, which is only about 20-30 °F below the maximum operating temperature of the boiler paint. Further research on this is needed.

Manufacture of replacement flexible staybolts continues at Noor Mfg., under supervision of member Eric Rave.

The pressure relief valve for the boiler is being rebuilt.

Plans and Fundraising—Ed Kibel

Ed reported that we have received the \$7,500 from the Daily Foundation for the proposal he submitted several months back. We also received \$555 reimbursement from the NM Tourism Department for our purchase for Rack Cards.

Tourism Secretary Monique Jacobson is working hard to create a NM brand called “New Mexico True”. Ed suggested we include this brand on all our subsequent promotional literature. This met with general approval.

Ed has prepared and submitted the Society request for the *Trains Magazine* annual \$10K grant.

Ed and Frank Gerstle are preparing a request for funding from the BNSF Foundation, for final review and submission by Chuck Mangold.

Open House Results—President Mike Hartshorne

Attendance this year was a record: 1,750 guests (not counting members).

From donations, sales, and superheater purchases, we netted about \$7,000.

Parking was a problem—we will have to work on a better arrangement, assuming the attendance continues to increase.

A big hit this year was the Diesel Locomotive provided by BNSF for display on our siding.

Mike emphasized that the best advertisement for the Open House continues to be a personal invitation from a member.

Mike thanked the members for their hard work in preparing the site and escorting guests.

2015 Society Calendars—Mike Hartshorne

NMSL&RHS Calendars for 2015 have been printed and are available for \$12 each. Mike noted they are even more attractive than the 2014 edition.

Future Plans for 2926—Bob DeGroft

Bob, Rick Kirby, Steve Bradford, Ed Kibel and Albert Leffler have been considering a variety of options for future operations. Las Vegas NM is attractive, since it has a destination, La Castañeda Hotel, and a wye turning facility for the 2926 at French, some 70 miles north. More on this in future meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 am.

Next General Meeting—November 8, 2014 at 9:00 am

Submitted by Frank Gerstle, Acting for Gail Kirby

Secretary, NMSL & RHS