

**Society of Automotive Historians
Board of Directors Meeting- Minutes
April 12, 2012**

Location: Sheraton Suites, Philadelphia Airport

Present: Douglas Leighton, President; John Heitmann, Vice President; Patrick Bisson, Treasurer; Robert Ebert, Secretary; Stanton Lyman; Steve Wilson; Paul Lashbrook; John Marino; Judy Endelman; Mark Patrick; Tom Jakups; Kit Foster; Susan Davis

Note: These minutes contain only the summaries of the committee and officers reports. The full committee reports that have been submitted are filed with the minutes and are available upon written request to the Secretary of the Society.

- President Leighton called the meeting to order at 9:01 am (EST).
- Secretary Ebert declared that with 13 directors in attendance a quorum existed.
- Minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting and the February 25 through March 5, 2012 electronic meeting of the Board were presented.
 - K. Foster asked that the minutes of the October 6, 2011 meeting be corrected as follows under the Treasurer's Report:
 - "Kit Foster observed that had there been [an issue of the *Automotive History Review* in 2011], the budget deficit would have been \$8000."
 - There being no further corrections or additions to the minutes, and upon motion duly made by P. Lashbrook and seconded by S. Wilson, the minutes of the October 6, 2011 and February 25 – March 5, 2012 meetings of the Board of Directors of the Society of Automotive Historians were approved without dissent.
- President's Report
 - President Leighton stated that he regularly receives inquiries regarding automotive history and asking where answers to questions about marques or issuesx can be found.
 - He thanked the Treasurer, Secretary, and Kit Foster for their efforts. He mentioned especial thanks to P. Bisson for his work on the whole electronic media issue.
 - Areas of concern hi-lited by President Leighton included:
 - The SAH Board needs to think in terms of ongoing issues confronting the Society and not just think in terms of meeting-to-meeting matters.
 - The membership is aging and there is a need to attract younger members and build on efforts like the student papers competition.
 - Membership maintenance has been made easier through the use of electronic resources and the work of Cornerstone. But, efforts must be made to get new members.
 - SAH relies heavily on the efforts of volunteers. However, as we face the future, can we continue to rely mostly on volunteers and continue operating basically on an amateur basis? Would a paid executive director sharpen our focus? This is something for us to consider as we face the future.
 - The membership is truly international with many specialty areas being repre3sented. How can we communicate more effectively with each other, given the eclectic nature of the membership?
- In discussion of the President's Report the following points were made:
 - P. Lashbrook suggested we find groups that have been successful in attracting younger members and try to learn from them

- J. Marino observed that the younger generation is becoming more connected through electronic/social media.
 - There followed a brief general discussion on the need for improvement of the web site to have a questions and answers section, a discussion section, etc.
 - J. Heitmann noted that he sees increasing interest in automotive history among young people that he teaches and we need to tap into that increasing interest.
- Treasurer's Report presented by P. Bisson.
 - Note: The full Treasurer's Report is filed with these minutes and available to from the Treasurer or Secretary upon request. What follows is a brief summary of the report.
 - Revenues for the period of Oct. 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 totaled \$28,512.87 and expenses totaled \$20,645.01 giving a surplus of income over expenses of \$7,867.86. However, that figure is not realistic because expenses associated with the 9th Biennial Automotive History Conference are not included in that figure. After expenses for the conference are figured in, the net income/loss figure is likely to change considerably and with known expenses would show a budget deficit for the period of \$1,594.77. It is hoped that the Silent Auction will bring in about \$3000 and dues of the Society of Automotive Historians Britain (SAHB) will forward about \$2800 in dues.
 - Membership dues constitute 85% of the SAH budget. The work with Cornerstone has been to our benefit with renewals being up.
 - The Board by unanimous consent expressed thanks to P. Bisson for his excellent work and detailed financial reports.
 - S. Lyman made and P. Lashbrook seconded the following motion: *Resolved: that the Treasurer be and hereby is directed to file for audit the financial statements of the Society of Automotive Historians for the period October 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012.* Motion passed without dissent.
- Membership Report by P. Bisson
 - Turning membership renewals and maintenance over to Cornerstone has worked very well
 - There have been 61 new members added since turning it over to Cornerstone. There may be a number of reasons for the increase in membership including more efficient maintenance of membership records by Cornerstone and M. Patrick passing out many membership applications at Hershey in October 2011.
 - Cornerstone sends a letter out automatically to persons whose memberships have lapsed.
 - SAHB membership dues will come in during the summer and membership numbers will need to be adjusted at that time.
 - There are 1005 members on the books of which 827 are considered active.
 - It was pointed out that having the publications come out on schedule is important to maintaining the membership in the organization.
- Academic Committee Report by J. Heitmann
 - A proposal to present a session at the American Historical Association Meeting in New Orleans, January 3-6, 2013 has been made. J. Heitmann is optimistic about the chances for acceptance.
 - Attempts are made to get scholars at the cutting edge of research on automotive history to present at conferences.
 - Research at present is focused more on the users of the automobile rather than on the manufacturers.
 - There is a rising interest in the history of auto racing. J. Heitmann will work with P. Yongue on ways to promote that within SAH.
- Archives Committee Report by K. Foster.
 - As directed by the board, the archives memo was posted at AutoHistory.org with the launch of the new website.

- The purpose of the archives memo is to give people advice on how to handle automotive history items when estates, in particular, need to be settled and liquidated.
- Nominating Committee
 - The Nominating Committee is a presidential appointment.
 - President Leighton will appoint the committee.
 - S. Davis, as Immediate Past President, was appointed Chair of the Nominating Committee.
 - President Leighton asked that suggestions for nominees be forwarded to S. Davis.
- Awards Committees.
 - Brigham Committee: No report at this time.
 - Benz Award: report by Don Keefe
 - Two nominations for the Benz Award have been received so far with at least six more on their way and expected.
 - Cugnot Award (English) Report by D. Leighton
 - D. Leighton has agreed to continue on as Chair of the Cugnot (English) Committee for this year.
 - The Cugnot Committee is working well and comes to a consensus quite readily.
 - S. Lyman pointed out that having academic members on the Cugnot Committee is important to building credibility for the award.
 - Cugnot Award (Language Other Than English): No report at this time.
 - There followed a brief general discussion about whether books on motorcycles are ever received as nominations for the Cugnot Award. Several directors mentioned there may be opportunities for SAH in extending its activities to include motorcycle history. D. Leighton and J. Heitmann agreed to investigate the possibility of contacting motorcycle groups to determine whether this would be an appropriate area for expansion of the SAH.
 - Bradley Award Report by J. Endelman
 - The Committee has been refreshed with the appointment of Ed Garten and Mark Patrick to it. The nomination form is on the SAH website and notices of the award are forthcoming in the SAH Journal and SAHB newsletter, on Autohistory.org, and the SAHB website. Applications are due by August 1, 2012.
 - Scharchburg Award Report by J. Heitmann
 - A mass snail mail was not sent out this year as had been the custom in past years. Rather, the Scharchburg Award has been publicized in the the SAH Journal, SAH website, the SHOT website, the H-Net Business and SCI-TECH-MED List Serv. Reminder notices will be sent to all of those websites and direct emails will be made to folks who have students write auto history papers on a regular basis.
 - President Leighton asked if there is a problem with undergraduate students not having a chance to win because papers are submitted by graduate students. J. Heitmann responded that in the past few years there have been a couple of papers by undergraduate students that won even though graduate student papers had been submitted.
- Publications
 - K. Foster reported that AHR issue no. 53 is out and issue 54 will be out this spring and will try to have some papers from the 9th Biennial Conference in it.
 - Attempt will be made to get back to having two issues of Automotive History Review per year, but it depends on receiving articles to publish.
 - J. Endelman asked if the manuscripts are sent to readers. K. Foster replied that it depends on the topic – the papers are sent to persons with knowledge in the field
 - T. Jakups reported that Ruben Verdes will be taking over as editor of the the SAH Journal this summer.
 - K. Foster stated that establishing a real schedule for the Journal is important because it carries the business of the SAH.

- J. Heitmann stated that more historical content is needed in the journal, even in short articles.
 - President Leighton stated that Ruben Verdes may be aware of these needs because of his experience in editing Rolls-Royce Club newsletters.
 - The Web Site situation was reported on by T. Jakups.
 - David Duricy has resigned as web master.
 - Mark Patrick has been appointed interim web master.
 - There followed an extensive discussion about concerns that the directors have regarding the development of the website and the relationship with Adago as developer of the web site..
 - M. Patrick said there is need to obtain statistics regarding the use of the web site and recommended that Google Analytics be used to obtain these data.
 - P. Lashbrook moved and J. Endelman seconded the following resolution:
Mark Patrick, as Interim Web master for the Society of Automotive Historians be and hereby is authorized to create a Google Analytics account for the purpose of obtaining needed statistics on the usage of the Society of Automotive historians web site. Motion passed without dissent.
 - M. Patrick suggested that SAH members with extensive collections of automotive history items be solicited to share parts of the collections on the web site. Also, people need to be encouraged to submit news of interest to automotive historians. An announcement will be placed on the web site to encourage these submissions.
 - After discussion and by consensus of the Board, President Leighton was directed and agreed to appoint a committee consisting of T. Jakups, J. Heitmann, and J. Endelman (and working with editors of the Journal and AHR to coordinate materials among the media) to guide the direction of the web site development. The committee is directed to consider alternatives regarding the development of the web site and to report in a timely manner to the Executive Committee of the Board which will then make an appropriate recommendation to the whole Board regarding the direction, relationships, and policies for the web site. An electronic meeting of the Board will then be convened to consider the appropriate direction, policies, and relationships for the ongoing development of the web site.
- At the noon hour, the Board took a break for lunch.
- The meeting reconvened at 1:10 pm.
- Silent Auction Report
 - K. Foster reported that Leroy and Cora Cole are working on the Silent Auction for this year.
 - The Coles have indicated this will be the last year they will be able to conduct the Silent Auction.
- Chapter and Sections Report by T. Jakups
 - The Leland Chapter is functioning and will have its next meeting on April 28, 2012.
 - The Wisconsin Chapter has had an issue with some chapter members not being members of the SAH. Tom Jakups will be working with them to resolve this problem.
 - P. Bisson noted that local chapters are dependent on local leadership. The Leland Chapter is alive and well because of strong leadership.
 - T. Jakups and K. Foster noted that the Southern California Chapter has had leadership problems.
 - K. Foster reported that the SAHB Chapter has two seminars per year plus other events and has a quarterly publication. He noted that the SAHB likes to hear from SAH and would like to see our officers at their events more often. President Leighton stated he will be in England this summer and will be contacting the SAHB officers to arrange a meeting.

- The International Motorsports history Section now has a presence on the SAH web site. P. Yongue reports that a sample of a more complete website, designed by a team at the university of Houston, will be shown at the Section meeting at the 9th Biennial Automotive History Conference. That meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Friday, April 13, 2012. The next project is development of by-laws for the Section.
- Euromeeting Report by K. Foster
 - The 17th annual SAH European Dinner and Meeting was held Thursday, 2, February 2012 at the Automobile Club de France in Paris. More than 40 members and guests attended, and awards were presented to authors and publishers of the Other-than-English Cugnot Award winner and two Awards of Distinction. In addition, the James J. Bradley Distinguished Service Award was presented as well as the author award for the English-language Award of Distinction book.
- Hershey Banquet Report by J. Marino
 - The annual meeting and banquet of the SAH will be held at the Hershey Country Club (HCC) on Friday, October 12, 2012 with Registration at 5:00 pm, a Social Hour from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and Dinner and a program to begin at 7:00 pm.. The Board will meet on Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 6:00 pm. It is anticipated the annual dinner buffet will cost about \$33 per person. The light buffet dinner for the Board meeting will cost about \$26 per person.
 - Consensus of the Board is to keep the menu for the dinner basically the same.
 - The consensus of the Board is to have a keynote speaker. Suggestions for a speaker need to be forwarded to President Leighton by May 1, 2012.
- Conference Report by Arthur Jones
 - The 2012 Ninth Biennial Automotive history Conference has attracted a broad group of seventeen presenters including six from overseas in reflection of its global theme. Overall attendance of approximately 45 remains at previous years' levels. The committee has gained important experience in organizing the event, the Society's first to be conducted under its sole sponsorship. A final report will be submitted separately to the Board when all information is available.
 - By consensus the Board wishes to extend its deep appreciation to the Conference Committee and Arthur Jones for the organization of remarkable and quality conference. A round of applause was given to Arthur Jones and the Committee.
- Hershey Hospitality Tent Report by P. Lashbrook
 - The Hershey 2011 SAH Tent provided hospitality and refreshments to many friends and members of the SAH. A very successful book signing event with fourteen authors provided great publicity for the Society and was well received. P. Lashbrook, as Chair of the committee, will make inquiries about the possibility of another book signing at the tent in 2012.
 - The SAH particularly thanks Kirk Gibson for his generous service by providing transportation and storage of the tent material.
 - Total cost of the Hershey hospitality tent for 2011 was \$1,820.43. The Tent Committee has been under budget for at least the past 13 years.
 - P. Lashbrook, as Chair of the Hershey Tent Committee looks forward to full participation in the next hospitality tent at Hershey in October 2012.
 - S. Lyman suggested that if not many authors can be found who are willing to have a book signing at the tent this year, perhaps othe clubs, such a marquee clubs, could be invited to have some time at the tent which would give them added exposure.
- Old Business
 - K. Foster had circulated a message via e-mail to the Board prior to the meeting reminding the Board that at the October 2011 Board meeting he men tioned that the bulk to the "reisdue" of the Taylor Vinson automotive history collection is presently in his (Foster's) garage. A

decision needs to be made on its disposal. Considerable discussion ensued via e-mail and then at this meeting regarding the proper disposal of the remaining parts of the Vinson collection which consists mostly of items that are duplicates of items not desired by the Hagley Museum and Library to which the collection had been given in the Vinson Trust Agreement (with duplicates to be distributed to the SAH for purposes of sale).

- K. Foster, upon inquiry, stated that it is necessary to remove these items from his garage by June 1, 2012 because he needs the space for personal items.
- K. Foster noted that there does not appear to be a strong market for much of the residue of the collection because it consists primarily of post 1970 materials. About \$400 of material was sold at Hershey in 2010 but only about \$20 at Hershey in 2011. However, the amount of material in the collection is considerable and occupies a space three feet wide by three feet high, by seven feet long and consists of about 36 boxes. The materials are not inventoried.
- After lengthy discussion about possible alternatives for disposing of the remainder of the Vinson automotive literature collection, M. Patrick moved and J. Endelman seconded the following motion: *Resolved that the Society of Automotive Historians advertise the remainder of the Taylor Vinson Collection of Automotive Literature as open to offers on the entire collection, on an "as is, where is" basis with buyer to remove at buyer's expense no later than June 1, 2012.* Motion carried with 9 votes for and 1 vote against.
- M. Patrick will advertise the collection on the SAH web site. M. Patrick and K. Foster will put together a brief description of the collection for the web site. Offers will be directed to Treasurer P. Bisson. Ads also will be run on other web sites such as Hemmings, Facebook, etc.
- New Business
 - There was no New Business brought before the meeting.
- Announcements
 - Treasurer P. Bisson announced that extra copies of the SAH Directory are available for anyone who wishes one.
- There being no further business to come before the meeting, J. Heitmann moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried without dissent.
 - Meeting adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert R. Ebert,
Secretary.

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