

Society of Automotive Historians
Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes

April 13, 2023

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom.com

Present:

Current Directors: Bob Barr, President; Kevin Kirbitz, Vice President; Rubén Verdés, Treasurer; Robert Casey, Secretary; Bob Elton, Carla Lesh, Chris Lezotte, John Mohr, Dean Nelson, Steve Purdy, Bob Schmitt, Matt Anderson, David McGee

Guests and ex officio: Louis Fourie, Ed Garten, Andrew Beckman, Don Capps, Mark Howell, John Marino, John Heitmann, David Schmidt, Helen Hutchings

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

President Barr called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm, EDT.

Upon completion of the roll call, Secretary Casey declared that with 13 officers and directors in attendance a quorum was present.

- Upon a motion made by D. Nelson and seconded by B. Elton, the Agenda for the April 13, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society of Automotive Historians was approved.
- Upon a motion made by D. McGee and seconded by J. Mohr, the minutes of the October 6, 2022 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society of Automotive Historians were approved as written.
- **Treasurer's Report:** R. Verdés reporting.
 - The Treasurer's Report is attached hereto and should be consulted for detailed information.
 - Treasurer Verdés noted that costs for membership services increased because we are purchasing more services, such as web hosting and management, from Cornerstone.

- Upon a motion made by K. Kirbitz and seconded by C. Lesh the Treasurer's Report was approved.
- **Nominations Committee:** D. Capps reporting:
 - Report of the Nominations Committee is attached hereto. On March 28, 2023 the Committee held its preliminary meeting to discuss the 2023 election for the organization.
 - J. Mohr asked if there was a hard date by which current officers must declare whether or not they intend to stand for reelection. The By-Laws specify that the Nominating Committee present its slate of candidates not less than 90 days before the October Board Meeting, which implies mid-July.
- **Awards Committees:** C. Lizotte reporting:
 - The Awards report is attached hereto.
 - E. Garten [Bradley Award] and S. Wilson [Ingersoll Award] stepped down from their positions as awards panel chairs after the 2022 Awards Banquet. After a request for volunteers to fill these and other positions was sent out via Mailchimp, the following individuals have taken on new award panel roles: David Schmidt is now Bradley Award chair; Mark Howell has taken the helm of the Ingersoll Award panel; Daniel Simone is a new Bradley Award panel member; Louise Noeth is a new Brigham Award panel member; Kevin McDonald now serves on the Cugnot LOE Award panel; Casey Maxon is a new member of the Ingersoll Award Panel.
- **Publications, SAH Journal:** Rubén Verdés reporting:
 - Report of the *SAH Journal* Committee is attached hereto.
 - There were six *SAH Journal* mailings, #310 through #315 in 2020-2022 and three mailings, #316 through #318 year-to-date as of March 31st. One *SAH Journal* was mailed out together with the *Automotive History Review* (#63)
- **Publications: Automotive History Review:** J. Heitmann reporting:
 - Due to a mix-up no written report was submitted. A copy of the masthead/table of contents for upcoming Volume #64 is attached hereto.

- Volume #64 is close to being done. Completion has been delayed by J. Heitmann's knee surgery. Heitmann wants to step down as editor after this issue, due to increasing family responsibilities and an impending move to a new city. We need an ad in Volume #64 seeking a new *AHR* editor.
- Heitmann has put the volumes he has edited (#61-#63) on the Academia website, which advances the goal of enhancing access to *AHR*.
- **Website Working Group:** David McGee reporting:
 - Report of the Website Working Group is attached hereto.
 - The existing SAH website has been significantly altered over the past year in preparation for its replacement. The design of a new website is almost complete. A new web company (Hostgator) has been engaged to host the new SAH site on the internet, which the working group hopes to have up and running by September.
- **Conferences & Symposiums Committee Report:** Bob Barr reporting:
 - Report of the Conferences & Symposiums Committee is attached hereto.
 - The Automotive Historians Australia (AHA) will not be able to host a second annual *Wheels Across the Pacific* joint symposium in 2023. D. McGee asked if the "Wheels Across the Pacific" idea could be extended to include Japan and South Korea. D. Capps responded that this was exactly the sort of thing we should be looking to do. The AHA hopes to be able to produce another symposium in 2024. The Seventh Annual Michael R. Argetsinger Symposium for International Motor Racing History takes place November 3rd and 4th at Watkins Glen, NY. The Symposium will be co-hosted by the International Motor Racing Research Center (IMRRC) and the SAH, and will be livestreamed by Gran Touring Motorsports.
 - President Barr noted that in 2022 the SAH donated \$1000 to the IMRRC to support the Argetsinger Symposium, and asked for thoughts about a similar or somewhat larger donation this year. The general consensus was in favor of that idea. President Barr will send an e-mail at a later date regarding the donation.

- President Barr also noted that there have been general discussions about holding some sort of conference in 2024 in the Greater Detroit area.
- **Bricks & Mortar Working Group Report:** Chris Lezotte reporting:
 - Report of the Bricks & Mortar Working Group is attached hereto.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding between the Kettering University Archives and the Society of Automotive Historians is currently being developed by Kettering University attorney Donald Rockwell for SAH approval.
 - After the MOU is approved the next step will be gathering all the relevant SAH materials from their scattered locations and transferring them to Kettering.
- **Chapters Committee Report:** Bob Barr reporting:
 - Report of the Chapters Committee is attached hereto.
 - As chapter activity is returning to a post-pandemic normal, it is time to revisit and refine ARTICLE X of the Bylaws regarding the definitions of “Chapters, Affiliates, and Interest Groups.”
 - D. McGee asked what the differences are among those names, and both President Barr and Vice President Kirbitz noted that we have not defined those differences. Kirbitz also noted that legal liability of the SAH and chapters, affiliates, etc. is a major question to be considered.
- **Hershey Banquet Committee:** John Marino reporting:
 - Report of the Hershey Banquet Committee is attached hereto.
 - President Barr noted that on March 16 we had a meeting via Zoom where we discussed the possibility of disconnecting both the Fall Board Meeting and the Annual General Meeting from Hershey. We could hold both via Zoom later in the month after Hershey. This would free up people’s time at Hershey, allow Board members who can’t attend Hershey to participate in the Board Meeting, and allow any member to attend/participate in the Annual General Meeting. After a good discussion, Vice President Kirbitz moved that we hold both the 2023 Board Meeting and the 2023 annual General Meeting remotely in October some time after Hershey. B. Elton seconded. Motion passed without objection.

- J. Marino is directed to contact the Hershey Country Club and cancel our reservation for the Wednesday Board Meeting. President Barr noted that it was important that the Country Club understand that we are not moving our meeting somewhere else, but canceling it entirely.
 - The 2023 SAH Awards Banquet is scheduled Thursday, October 5 in the Picard Grand Pavilion of the Hershey Country Club. Menu will be the Summer Harvest Buffet as in previous years. SAH is guaranteeing 42 meals. D. Nelson moved approval of the location and menu. Second by J. Mohr. Approved.
 - Dean Nelson noted that the Banquet speaker will be William Jackson, SAH member number 2, and asked if there were any particular questions we wanted to ask him. Treasurer Verdés had two: 1) describe the October 11, 1969 organizational meeting of the SAH; 2) talk about working with Gordon Buehrig writing the book *Rolling Sculpture*.
- **New Business:**
 - C. Lezotte and H. Hutchings are working on publicity for the 2023 Hershey Book signing. They designed an advertisement that could be placed in the Hershey Flea Market Directory, which is available for purchase for \$5.00 at the Flea Market entrance gates. 75,000 copies of the Directory are printed. A half-page ad costs \$436 and a full-page ad costs \$814. We need to get more foot traffic during the Book Signing event because we presently are doing too much selling to each other. In 2022 President Barr made a laminated flyer announcing the Book Signing and distributed it to several flea market tents. He plans to do a larger distribution this year. R. Verdés moved that the Society spend \$436 for a half-page ad in the Hershey Flea Market Directory. Dean Nelson seconded. Motion passed without objection.
 - President Barr noted that the Society's current Bylaws are three years old and experience has revealed some areas that could be improved, such as the operation of the Nominating Committee and a clarification and expansion of Article X that deals with Chapters, Affiliates, Associates, and Interest Groups. President Barr plans consult with D. Nelson and propose some Bylaw changes that can be discussed and voted on at the October Board Meeting.

- President Barr noted that the administrative burden of day-to-day tasks can distract the SAH President from more “Presidential” concerns. The Bylaws allow the President to delegate tasks to other officers, but makes no provision for delegation to non-officers. He believes there is a need for something like an administrative assistant. Any modification of the Bylaws should account for such a position and President Barr will include it in his proposals for October.
- J. Mohr reported that he has assembled a bid for an SAH sponsored session with four presenters at the American Historical Association conference in San Francisco in January 2024. He anticipates that our bid will be approved. It will be good exposure for the Society.

D. McGee moved adjournment; second by R. Verdés.. The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 p.m. EDT.