

**Society of Automotive Historians**  
**Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes**

**April 20, 2021**

Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic this meeting was held virtually via the website Zoom.com.

**Present:**

***Current Directors:*** Don Capps, President; Robert Barr, Vice President; Rubén Verdés, Treasurer; Robert Casey, Secretary; Bob Elton, Kevin Kirbitz, Chris Lezotte, Casey Maxon, John Mohr, Dean Nelson, Steve Purdy, Bob Schmitt

***Guests and ex officio:*** John Marino, Ed Garten, Andrew Beckman, Arthur Jones

***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 Capps called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM EDT.

Upon completion of the roll call, Secretary Casey declared that with 12 officers and directors in attendance a quorum was present.

- Upon motion made by R. Barr and seconded by D. Nelson, minutes of the October 7 & 9, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society of Automotive Historians were approved as written. [SEP]
- **President's Report:** D. Capps reporting
  - President's Report is attached hereto.
  - President Capps observed that while he assumes the AACA meet at Hershey, PA will happen in some form in 2021, our Fall Board meeting may have to be partly in person and partly virtual.
  - President Capps reiterated the importance of SAH engaging with other organizations devoted to automotive history, both in this hemisphere and in the eastern hemisphere. He also emphasized the importance of public presentations, both in person in electronic

media, and advocated SAH publication, of monographs in electronic form.

- **Treasurer's Report:** R. Verdés reporting.
  - The Treasurer's Report is attached hereto and should be consulted for detailed information.
  
- **Governance Council:** L. Fourie reporting
  - The Governance Council Report is attached hereto.
  - The Chair and B. Barr have been in discussion about two proposed Policy and Procedures for the committee.
  - The Chair will work with A. Beckman to jointly develop Policies and Procedures for both Governance Council and Nominations Committee.
  
- **Bricks & Mortar Committee:** Chris Lezotte reporting
  - The Bricks & Mortar Committee Report is attached hereto.
  - The committee is currently in discussion with the Kettering university Library regarding establishment of a permanent home for SAH archives within the institutions automotive collections.
  
- **Membership & Marketing Committee:** Steve Purdy reporting
  - The Membership & Marketing Committee Report is attached hereto.
  - The Membership & Marketing Committee now has brochures and would like to get them out as broadly as possible with focused membership pitches. We want to integrate our activities as much as possible with the Social Media Committee.
  - C. Maxon asked if we could do multi-year memberships and A. Beckman asked about automatic membership renewal.
  - R. Verdés replied that Cornerstone can do auto-renewal, and that multi-year memberships work best when they also come with a discount. Verdés doesn't like discounts because they reduce income.
  - L. Fourie volunteered to call people who did not renew and encourage them to renew. R. Verdés and S. Purdy promised to get Fourie a list of those people.

- **Outreach & Marketing/Social Media/Web Presence:** John Mohr reporting.
  - The Outreach & Marketing/Social Media/Web Presence Working Group report is attached hereto.
  - The Working Group continues to develop plans to expand the SAH web presence. There has been an overhaul of the website with more changes planned. We will also continue to expand SAH social media presence.
  - C. Maxon said that SAH now has an Instagram handle.
  - An SAH Facebook group has been launched and people are encouraged to join and post.
  - Various people noted that other organizations similar to ours host webinars on YouTube.
  
- **International Committee:** B. Barr reporting:
  - Report of the International Committee is attached hereto.
  - Automotive history events around the world continue to be curtailed due to the pandemic. B. Barr hopes to use the newly acquired SAH Zoom account to conduct virtual get-togethers with some of our international colleagues.
  
- **Academic Committee:** J. Mohr reporting:
  - Report of the Academic Committee is attached hereto.
  - The Committee has set goals to raise the academic profile of SAH. One goal is to get *Automotive History Review* listed on academic databases in order to make it more useful to researchers. But those databases want a permanent home for publications, preferably a college, museum, or research library. That implies a “bricks & mortar” home. C. Lezotte referred to her committee’s efforts and that a trip to the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum might be necessary to assess their collection of SAH award books and their willingness to remain a repository.
  - If AHR does become accessible via an academic database, J. Mohr asks if we are comfortable taking it out from behind our paywall so that it can be used by non-SAH members.

- **Nominating Committee:** A. Beckman reporting:
  - Report of the Nominating Committee is attached hereto.
  - The committee will be convening via a method to be determined in the coming weeks to review the expiring terms, discuss the board's needs, and vet potential candidates. Board recruitment is key to the long-term-health of SAH. Please share any prospects with the committee.

**Awards: Reports received from Awards Committees are attached hereto and are summarized below.**

- **Brigham Award:** Andrew Beckman reporting:
  - Two nominations for the Brigham Award have been received. Publications/PDFs are in hand and will be distributed to the committee shortly.
- **Cugnot English Language Award:** Ed Garten reporting:
  - As of the nomination deadline of April 15, 2021 the award panel received 12 books for review. Review of these nominations has now begun among members and award decisions will be made by mid-August 2021.
- **Cugnot for books in language other than English:** Arthur Jones reporting:
  - To date we have received nominations for only 2 books, however others may arrive before the June 15 deadline.
- **Benz Award:** Don Keefe reporting
  - We have received a total of fifteen articles for consideration. The normal deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>, though I will normally wait until the end of the month to allow for any foreign submissions to arrive before sending them to the committee members.
- **Bradley Award:** Ed Garten reporting:
  - The Bradley Award panel is recommending that the award become an "Occasional" award rather than a yearly one as has been the case since the award was originated in 1992.
  - No action was taken.

- **Friend of Automotive History Award:** Andrew Beckman reporting:
  - One nomination has been received as of this writing for the 2021 FAH award.
  
- **Scharchburg Student Paper Award:** John Mohr reporting.
  - Two awards will be given this year: one in the graduate category and the other in the undergraduate category. The committee looks forward to selecting the 2021 Scharchburg Award winners.
  
- **Awards Sub-Committee:** Chris Lezotte reporting.
  - Report of the Awards Sub-Committee is attached hereto.
  - The committee is currently 1) Revisiting award categories as they now exist to determine whether they require revising, updating, or elimination. 2) Proposing two additional awards to be awarded in 2022 for 2021 publications: an award for the automobile in film; and an award for the social history of the automobile in print.
  - No action was taken on the proposals.
  
- **Publications - SAH Journal:** Rubén Verdés reporting:
  - Report of the *SAH Journal* Committee is attached hereto.
  - Issues 305, 306, and 307 have been printed and mailed since 9/30 last year. As of this date issue 308 is well underway and will be e-mailed to *all* SAH members (both digital and active members) as usual. Each of these e-mails contains other items of interest for members.
  
- **Publications - Automotive History Review:** J. Heitmann reporting:
  - Report of the *AHR* Editor is attached hereto.
  - Volume 62 is now in layout. It is a large issue with 84 pages and 7 articles. Submissions continue to be of uneven quality, some acceptable but with considerable revisions necessary.
  
- **Publications - Website:** Tom Jakups and Louis Fourie reporting:
  - Report of the Website Committee is attached hereto.

- No action was taken on the following proposals: 1) Roger Currie has offered “Members Only” access to a vast digital collection of brochures. The committee would appreciate Dean Nelson’s thoughts about proprietary rights; 2) Considering an eBay type auction available through the website for any major bequest of material; 3) In anticipation of an SAHJ article on resources by Walt Gosden, the committee desires to create a Members Only section allowing ongoing updates from Member suggestions.
- **Chapters and Sections Report:** Bob Barr reporting:
  - Report of the Chapters and Sections Committee is attached hereto.
  - Chapter activity continues to be curtailed during the pandemic. The Wisconsin SAH will hold a socially distanced spring meeting, and the Leland Chapter is planning a virtual meeting in May.
  - The Committee is considering reactivating the Pioneer Chapter.
- **SAH Annual Euromeeting Report:** Kit Foster reporting.
  - Report of the Euromeeting Committee is attached hereto.
  - The 2020 SAH Euromeeting took place on February 4, 2020 in Paris. Due to the Covid pandemic, 2021 Retromobile has been cancelled, and rescheduled for February 2022. The SAH will again sponsor the Euromeeting, pandemic conditions permitting.
- **Hershey Banquet Committee:** John Marino reporting:
  - Report of the Hershey Banquet Committee is attached hereto.
  - 2020 Board Meeting and Annual Meeting and Banquet were cancelled due to Covid 19, 2021. If pandemic conditions permit, the Fall Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Meeting and Banquet will be held on October 7 and 8, 2021 at the Hershey Country Club. Banquet price to members will be \$62.00.
- **Hershey Tent Committee:** L. Fourie reporting:
  - Report of the Hershey Tent Committee is attached hereto.
  - We have paid for our AACA Hershey spot and are hopeful that the 2021 Fall Meet will take place.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Casey, Secretary.