

Society of Automotive Historians
Board of Directors Meeting – Minutes

May 19, 2022

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

Present:

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

Guests and ex officio: John Marino, Louis Fourie, Ed Garten, Andrew Beckman, Helen Hutchings, John Heitmann, Stan Lyman, Kit Foster, Mark Vargas, David McGee.

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 8:10 PM EDT.

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

- Upon a motion made by Bob Casey and seconded by Chris Lezotte the Agenda was approved as submitted.
- Upon motion made by Bob Casey and seconded by Bob Elton, minutes of the October 18, 2021 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Society of Automotive Historians were approved as written.
- **President's Report:** Bob Barr reporting
 - President's Report is attached hereto.
 - President Barr welcomed new Director Matt Anderson and thanked exiting Ex-Officio Board member Louis Fourie and also noted Fourie's long work on the SAH website. The majority of the content

- on the site, including the photographs, is there through Fourie's efforts.
- President Barr noted that for the upcoming Committee reports, the Website report will be separate from the Publications report, in anticipation of a permanent separation of the Website and Publications.
 - **Treasurer's Report:** Rubén Verdés reporting.
 - The Treasurer's Report is attached hereto and should be consulted for detailed information.
 - As of 4/30 the Society has a net surplus of \$4,050.
 - Treasurer Verdés noted that the report includes expenses for four issues of *SAH Journal* but not the *Automotive History Review*. The next *Review* issue is nearing completion and Verdés aims to send it out with the next *Journal* issue to save postage.
 - Stan Lyman asked if our current membership of 653 represents any trend, either up or down. Verdés responded that membership has been more or less steady since SAH separated from SAHB. Prior to the split SAH membership ranged between 800 and 900.
 - Louis Fourie noted that website expenses will increase in the future. We must pay the new Webmaster Mark Wheeler \$1,200 annually, double the former cost, and there are other expenses that will result in an annual website cost of \$1,400-1,500 per year.
 - Upon a motion by Kevin Kirbitz and a second by Bob Elton, the Treasurer's Report was approved.
 - **Nominating Committee:** Don Capps reporting
 - The Nominating Committee Report is attached hereto and should be consulted for detailed information.
 - Per the Bylaws, the three nominees for election to the Board for the 2022-2025 term are: CHRIS LEZOTTE, STEVE PURDY, LEON DIXON, and DAVID MCGEE.
 - President Barr noted that the Automotive Historians Australia call their Board members and officers "office bearers," as in bearing a cross.

- **International Committee:** Bob Barr reporting:
 - Report of the International Committee is attached hereto.
 - We are looking forward to convening a joint online symposium with the Automotive Historians Australia on September 18 (September 19 in Australia). We will also begin informal virtual gatherings with the SAHB, tentatively entitled “SAH-SAHB Across the Pond Chin-Wags.”

- **Outreach & Marketing Working Group:** Steve Purdy reporting.
 - Report of the Outreach & Marketing Working Group is attached hereto.
 - The Membership & Marketing Working Group should become part of the broader outreach efforts of the Society through restructuring and inclusion in the Web and social media development process.
 - President Barr noted that after the Board meeting he will shut down both the Outreach & Marketing and the Social Media Working Groups and combine them as a new ad hoc committee to do the same work. After consultation with the Working Group members he will send out an e-mail to Board members asking for approval of the new arrangement.

- **Academic Committee:** John Mohr reporting:
 - Report of the Academic Committee is attached hereto.
 - One Committee goal is resuming SAH participation in the American Historical Association annual conference. It has been some years since we have sponsored a session with the AHA. Chair Mohr has learned that the deadline for participation in the 2023 conference has passed so that 2024 is the earliest we can participate. He is aiming to recruit a group of SAH participants by the February 15, 2023 deadline for 2024 conference submissions. There is a \$100-150 application fee, plus some other nominal fees for audiovisual equipment and the presentation space, so the budget implications are not large.
 - John Heitmann noted that the last SAH appearance at the AHA was about five years ago. The AHA application process is quite complex and the AHA puts great emphasis on having diverse participants.
 - AHA presenters must be AHA members and membership costs about \$150-160.

- The Committee has set goals to raise the academic profile of SAH. The Committee continues to make progress towards fulfilling its goals in the post-Covid era.
- **Awards Committee:** Chris Lezotte reporting.
 - Report of the Awards Committee is attached hereto.
 - President Barr thanked Chris Lezotte and Ed Garten for their significant work in writing Policies and Procedures for Awards and for improving the Awards section of the website to make the nominations process clearer and easier.
 - Chair Lezotte noted that we want to raise the profile of the awards and the winners, and thereby the SAH. Louis Fourie added that this is an opportunity to make widespread media announcements that will publicize SAH.
 - The Committee members will get together to discuss how best to accommodate and recognize the award winners from the past three years since we have not been able to present awards in person during that time.
 - Ed Garten noted the importance of getting back to award nominees who don't win and thanking and encouraging them. There have been cases where nominees simply didn't hear about the winner until they read about it.
 - The Awards Committee instituted a centralized nomination submission process that worked well in its first year. Panels with an April 15 submission date [Benz, Bradley, Brigham, Cugnot English, Friend, Ingersoll] have begun the judging process. Nominations for the Cugnot Language other than English and Scharchburg will be accepted until June 15, 2022.

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

- **Carl Benz Award:** Don Keefe reporting. Report of the Benz Award Committee is attached hereto. Thus far 27 articles have been submitted for evaluation.
- **James J. Bradley Distinguished Service Award:** Ed Garten reporting. Report of the Bradley Award Committee is attached hereto. In 2021 it was agreed that the Bradley Award would move from an annual award to an occasional award. There is no Bradley

- Award for 2022. Ed Garten would like to retire as Chair after 12 years of service, but would like to remain on the Panel.
- **Richard and Grace Brigham Award:** Andrew Beckman reporting. Report of the Brigham Award Committee is attached hereto. Three nominations have been received.
 - **Cugnot English Language Award:** Ed Garten reporting. Report of the Cugnot Award Committee is attached hereto. Ten nominations have been received.
 - **Cugnot for Books in a Language other than English:** Arthur Jones reporting. Report of the Cugnot Award for Books in a Language other than English Committee is attached hereto. Two nominations have been received.
 - **Friend of Automotive History Award:** Andrew Beckman reporting. Report of the Friend of Automotive History Award Committee is attached hereto. Six nominations have been received. Voters will be asked to use a ranked choice voting format.
 - **E.P. Ingersoll Award:** Steve Wilson reporting. Report of the Ingersoll Award Committee is attached. Two nominations have been received.
 - **Richard P. Scharchburg Student Paper Award:** John Mohr reporting. Report of the Scharchburg Student Paper Award Committee is attached hereto. Deadline for submission for the both Graduate and Undergraduate Paper Awards is June 15, 2022.
- **Publications - SAH Journal:** Rubén Verdés reporting:
 - Report of the *SAH Journal* Committee is attached hereto.
 - Issues 311, 312, 313, and 314 have been printed and mailed since October 7, 2021. As of this date issue 315 is well underway.
 - Editor Verdés noted that he has accepted an offer to edit *The Classic Car* for the Classic Car Club of America, but intends to remain as editor of the *SAH Journal*.
 - Ed Garten noted that special thanks should go out to Helen Hutchings for her regular book reviews, and to Kit Foster for his excellent obituaries of SAH members we have lost.
 - **Publications - Automotive History Review:** John Heitmann reporting:
 - Report of the *AHR* Editor is attached hereto.
 - Volume 63, with 96 pages and 6 articles, is in process. Plans for Volume 64 are underway, based on publishing papers from the

Virtual Symposium “Cars Across the Pacific: Transnational Histories of the Automotive Industry,” scheduled to take place on September 18, 2022. This is a joint venture of the SAH and the Automotive Historians Australia. This event comes at a welcome time because there remains a dearth of good papers submitted due to the Covid pandemic.

- **Publications – Website Working Group:** Tom Jakups and Louis Fourie reporting:
 - Report of the Website Working Group is attached hereto.
 - Mark Wheeler of Cornerstone Registrations took over the Webmaster duties as of December 1, 2021 at an annual cost of \$1,200.
 - President Barr noted that we are working on a word search function for back issues of our publications, which will make them much more helpful for researchers. Next we will turn to improving the look and function of the homepage itself. Eventually the Website will likely be separated from the Publications Committee and will be given its own Ad Hoc Committee.

- **Chapters and Sections Report:** Kevin Kirbitz reporting:
 - Report of the Chapters and Sections Committee is attached hereto.
 - Local chapter activities are slowly returning to in-person events. As the local organizations continue to reacclimatize, the Committee will resume discussing the question of whether it is in the best interest of SAH to continue the current chapter relationship, move to a more formalized chapter structure, or move to an “arms’ length” affiliate relationship. Committee Chair Kirbitz noted that every chapter we have is different, operates differently, and seems happy with what it does. We want to maintain that situation.

- **Hershey Banquet Committee:** John Marino reporting:
 - Report of the Hershey Banquet Committee is attached hereto.
 - The Fall Board of Directors Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 5, 2022 from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. at the Hershey Country Club. Total cost, including dinner, is estimated to be \$573.75.
 - John Mohr noted that he, Carla Lesh, and perhaps Kevin Kirbitz will have difficulty attending a Board meeting on a Wednesday.

- The Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2022 at the Hershey Country Club. Cocktails will be served from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. with dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cost for food, service, and audiovisual equipment will work out to about \$66 per person.
- John Marino asked if we will have a guest speaker. President Barr noted that we have three years of awards to hand out, and the time that takes may preclude having a speaker. President Barr will discuss the award situation with Chris Lezotte and Ed Garten and report back to John Marino within one to two weeks.
- **Hershey Tent Committee:** L. Fourie reporting:
 - Report of the Hershey Tent Committee is attached hereto. Tent set up will be on Tuesday October 4, with teardown Thursday October 6 or Friday October 7. Book signing will be on Thursday October 6. Louis Fourie will prepare a duty roster.
- **Argetsinger Symposium:** President Barr reporting in Don Capps' absence.
 - Report of the Argetsinger Symposium Committee is attached hereto.
 - The 6th Michael R. Argetsinger Symposium for International Motor Racing History will be held November 4 & 5, 2022 at Watkins Glen, New York, continuing its long-standing partnership with the International Motor Racing Research Center. The former historian of NASCAR, Buzz McKim, will be the keynote speaker. The Call for Papers has been issued with a response date of August 5, 2022.
 - There has been some talk of trying to make this year's Symposium a hybrid event, with both in person and on-line attendance.
 - President Barr noted that the IMRRC spends some \$3,000-3,500 to put on each Symposium, and are seeking some financial assistance. He proposed that the SAH contribute \$1,000. He will talk with the IMRRC and get back to the Board via e-mail. Rubén Verdés suggested that if we do contribute money to the Symposium that the IMRRC give us a letter acknowledging our participation as proof that the monetary contribution is in furtherance of our 501(c)3 mission.
 - John Heitmann suggested that, in light of his need for content for the *Automotive History Review*, the SAH should seek permission to publish papers from the Symposium.

- **Bricks & Mortar Working Group:** Chris Lezotte reporting
 - The Bricks & Mortar Working Group Report is attached hereto.
 - The working group has finalized the agreement with the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum to store the SAH award winning publications [now referred to as the SAH Special Reference Collection at ACDM]. In early 2022 a proposal was submitted to Kettering University in Flint, Michigan to establish a repository for SAH publications and institutional records and also to allow SAH to have a meeting place for the SAH Board. The proposal is currently under university review. Chris Lezotte reported that the proposal was moving through the bureaucratic approval process but that the Kettering library staff is enthusiastic.

- **New Business:**
 - President Barr broached the possibility with SAH cooperating with the National Association of Automobile Museums [NAAM]. Incoming Director Matt Anderson is also the immediate past president of NAAM and Barr asked if Anderson could be a liaison between the two groups.
 - Kit Foster and Bob Casey both noted that when the SAH and NAAM held joint conferences in the past that there proved to be little overlap between the sessions. SAH members largely attended SAH sponsored sessions and NAAM members largely attended NAAM sponsored sessions. Future cooperation should probably be in other areas, like providing SAH speakers for museum programs or providing research assistance and answering historical questions.
 - Since some Directors may not be able to attend the October Board Meeting in person, President Barr raised the possibility of holding a “hybrid” meeting, with some members participating remotely. He noted that the technology to do this properly can be expensive. John Mohr volunteered to investigate further.
 - President Barr noted that on his way home from Hershey he will drop off copies of this year’s Cugnot [both categories] award winners and nominees at the Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum. We then need to work with ACDM to publicize the fact that all our award-winning books are available in one place for researchers.

Bob Casey moved that the meeting be adjourned; John Mohr seconded; motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:14 PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Casey, Secretary

Appendix

Society of Automotive Historians Board of Directors

May 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- **Argetsinger Symposium:**

On May 25, 2022 SAH President Barr contacted Duke Argetsinger and Mark Steigerwald of the International Motor Racing Research Center regarding the possibility of the SAH making a \$1,000 contribution to the 2022 Michael R. Argetsinger Symposium. Barr also suggested the following:

- Promoting the Symposium on the SAH website and in the *SAH Journal* print and digital versions.
- Displaying an SAH banner in the symposium room, in addition to the lectern banner.
- Staffing an SAH and IMRRC membership table each morning and during the breaks.
- After the Symposium, publishing some of the papers in the annual *SAH Automotive History Review*. Editor John Heitmann is excited about this possibility. The 2023 *Review* will likely be released in May or June 2023.
- Promoting the joint Symposium year round.
- If the IMRRC posts videos of the presentations on its own website, the SAH would be happy to post them on the SAH website as well.

Argetsinger and Steigerwald replied on May 26. They were delighted with the offer of a \$1,000 monetary contribution and were amenable to all the above suggestions. President Barr reported this back to the Board via e-mail, and asked for a motion to approve the contribution. Secretary Casey moved that “The SAH Board approve a \$1,000 expenditure in support of the 2022 Michael R. Argetsinger Symposium at the International Motor Racing History Research Center.” Secretary Casey sent out the motion via e-mail, and called for discussion and a second. Carla Lesh seconded. There was no discussion, but all Directors and Officers voted in favor of the motion via e-mail referenda, per Article VII, Section 4(a) through (d) of the Bylaws. The motion is passed.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Casey, Secretary.