

National Society Descendants of American Railroad Workers
Annual Meeting – Via ZOOM
09 Mar 2025

President, Elaine Baldasare, called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM Eastern Time.

The invocation was given by Linda Kay White, Chaplain. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, also led by Linda Kay White.

Fourteen members were present.

President Baldasare introduced the officers of the society:

Vice-President – Bev Schuele

Chaplain – Linda Kay White

Registrar/Treasurer – Aaron Cross

Corresponding Secretary – Kim Defibaugh

Parliamentarian – Appointed Officer – Gwen Causey

A quorum was established with 14 members present with five of those being elected officers.

Bev Schuele served as the Recording Secretary PRO TEM in the absence of Lorraine Sims. The minutes of the 10 Nov 2024 Special Meeting were approved as distributed.

Reports of Officers:

President – Elaine Baldasare reported on the progress of the NSDARW Society. Some highlights to date on the tasks achieved are:

1. Special Meeting was held on 21 May 2024 by the Executive Board to vote on Bylaws and Standing Rules.
2. Added Charter Member status to the first 116 members; added Collateral Ancestors; and moved the end date of qualification from 1945 to 1950.
3. Have worked tirelessly with *Citypride* to design and provide a charter pin, new insignia and society ribbon colors.
4. We continue to update our members with information posted on the NSDARW website and Members Only FB pages. Please go to www.nsdrailroad.com
5. We want to increase membership to NSDARW through Ads, such as, in seven railroad publications managed by White River Productions. We are also distributing our NSDARW tri-fold brochures created by member, Stephanie Thompson, which can be located and downloaded from our website.
6. This President will be sending out a newsletter in the June time frame. Look for it in your Email.

Vice-President – Bev Schuele reported that she is in the process of obtaining a speaker from a historical railroad museum for our September 14th meeting. Suggestions can be emailed to Schuele for consideration. She also continues to create graphic ads when needed for the society.

Treasurer – Aaron Cross reported that we currently have \$17,971.05 in our account. The increase in income is from 12 new memberships, supplementals, and insignia sales. Aaron also worked on a budget for the 2025-2026 term.

Registrar – Aaron Cross reported that we have grown from 109 members to 122! Eighteen supplementals have been approved. We are now honoring 140 ancestral railroad workers.

Corresponding Secretary – Kim Defibaugh reported that she continues staying busy emailing correspondence to NSDARW members including registration links to Zoom Meetings, introduced two prospective members to the President and Registrar via email, and added contact info for new members sending them Welcome to the Society emails.

Old Business:

1. Our Charter Pin is now available on the *Citypride* website. Any member whose number is 116 or lower may order the pin. *Citypride* will verify your purchase with the Registrar.
2. Our new ribbon for insignia produced for us by *Citypride* should be ready by early April
3. We will have two NSDARW insignia available for purchase – large and mini.

New Business:

1. The NSDARW Budget for 2025-2026 was presented by Aaron Cross, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee. Budget was approved as presented.
2. Two changes to Bylaws were presented with rationale. Both were approved by a vote of the membership. The approved Bylaws were:
Article V Officers & Duties: The National Recording Secretary shall provide minutes of all Annual, Regular and Special meetings to the National Corresponding Secretary for distribution to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the next scheduled meeting.
Article VIII Meetings: Section 2. Notice and Call. The Notice and Call to all Annual, Regular and Special meetings shall be prepared by the National President with the assistance of the National Corresponding Secretary and sent electronically to all members no later than thirty (30) days prior to such meeting and shall include all pertinent information as to date, time and place. Registration with the Corresponding Secretary (or PRO TEM designated by the President) for all meetings is required.
3. Nomination and Election of a Nominating Committee for officers for the 2026-2028 term. President Elaine Baldasare read Article VII Section 1. Nominating Committee. A slate of three names was presented for the Nomination Committee. They were: Kelly Dugas, Brenda Reeder, and Margaret Powell. A motion was made by Kim Defibaugh to approve the slate of the Nomination Committee. It was seconded by Mary Ann Loss. The membership voted in favor of this slate.

Other Discussions:

Members present at the meeting gave some good insight on ways to advertise our Society. They included ads in DAR State Conference booklets, Family Tree Magazine, table at Roots Tech Conference, Heritage Society week in D.C., and placing literature at our local genealogical societies.

Announcements:

The Executive Board has selected Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time for a Regular meeting. Every effort will be made to book a speaker.

Memorial Service: Chaplain, Linda Kay White gave a beautiful Memorial Service for John Jones, Member #24, of Minneapolis, MN who died on June 5, 2023 and Dr. Grace Smith, Member #39, of Grosse Point Farms, MI and later Macomb, MI. She passed on June 19, 2024.

Benediction: Given by Chaplain, Linda White

Adjournment: 5:07 p.m. EST

Submitted by: Bev Schuele, Recording Secretary, PRO TEM
March 11, 2025