

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

Fifty-Eighth Annual Report

2017

Summary

The Association has made considerable progress during fiscal 2017, which ended on September 30. We continued to make headway in our efforts on *RollSign* redesign, experienced our best fundraising efforts ever, advanced the Type 5 No. 5706 project and had a successful chartered bus trip to see the car. We also enjoyed another year of well-received entertainment programs following our monthly business meetings.

In the discussion that follows, our officers have provided detailed reports in their areas of responsibility, which more fully describe the activities of the Association during the year.

The Association is fortunate to have you all as our members. It is because of your support in the form of financial donations, gifts and bequests of historical materials, information and photographs for *RollSign* articles and publications, and helpful suggestions and advice that our organization continues to thrive. Our thanks to you all for your past and future help!

Report of the Publications Director

This fiscal year was another great one for the BSRA Publications Department. We produced seven Publications Catalogues, including a special edition in September in conjunction with the release of two new books of local interest. Our catalogues have had a good response, as has our online store at www.thebsra.org. An integral part of this success is our Warehouse Manager, Ron Clough, who works year-round to fulfill orders and maintain our warehouse. Proceeds from publications sales help us reach our goals and maintain our organizational objectives, and we thank everyone who has made purchases from us!

Among this year's best-selling titles were *The Boston & Albany: Worcester, MA to Albany; Street Cars of Washington, DC; Along the Lakeshore; Sunnyside Yard & Hell Gate Bridge; A Wicked Good (T)rip; Twin Cities Trolleys in Color; Lost Springfield, MA; Reading Railroad Heritage; The Street Railways of Grand Rapids; Chicago Surface Lines - Linking Chicago's Neighborhoods; The Train on the Beach; and Rail Lines of Southern New England, Second Edition.*

In January, we manned our annual booth at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, Massachusetts. This event benefits the BSRA in two ways: we can raise money by selling a wide variety of regional and national

transit publications and gift items; and we are able to "fly the flag" and make the show's visitors aware of the Association and its activities. We offer our sincere thanks to our volunteer staff, which consisted of Mike Prescott, Nick Tomkavage, Dana Frisbee, and Paul Tomkavage, with additional support from Danny Cohen, Brad Clarke, Charlie Bahne, Ron Clough, and Bill Pollman.

In the coming year, we will continue work on the next installment in our *Streetcar Lines of the Hub* book series, among other projects, and hope to publish that title in 2018.

Report of the Director of Car Restoration

With the completion of the steel framing and exterior side sheeting now behind us, work on our Boston Type 5 car, No. 5706, has now focused on restoration of the car interior and the underfloor mechanical systems,

Work on refitting the car interior is well underway now that we can work indoors free from bad weather. Our main focus on 5706 has been on the bottom floor, the mechanical equipment just beneath it, and the car wiring and piping. We have fabricated the brake rigging, purchased new air tanks, and are rebuilding the pneumatic part of the DH-16 air compressor, the motor having been rebuilt. The flooring has been fitted and cut, and the steel framing for the motor access traps is done. With the body flooring complete at this point, steps and doors will be installed to allow convenient access to the interior, and staging will be set up to complete the letterboards this fall.

Rebuilding the truck frames and replacing or refurbishing the wheel and axle sets is also planned and we are exploring a number of interesting options for this effort.

On September 23, 2017, the Association sponsored a chartered bus trip to Rail Technical Services in Guilford, CT. to view the progress on the car. This was followed by a visit to the Shore Line Trolley Museum.

Your contributions have made this program possible and your ongoing support will ensure its successful completion! We are also continuing to submit funding grant applications to other organizations.

To date, we have raised \$306,889 for the 5706 Fund through fiscal 2017. Ever so many thanks to all of you who have given to the restoration of our historic Type 5 streetcar. A donation to the 5706 Fund helps

preserve the past for the enjoyment of future generations.

Report of the *ROLLSIGN* Director

The Association published six editions of *RollSign* in fiscal 2017. In addition to illustrated current transit events in most issues, we had a number of well-received feature articles: *Worcester Trolleys Remembered Again* by Ed Anderson; *Transit Day at the Seashore Trolley Museum*, by Tom Santarelli; *Waverley Trackless Trolleys Return*, by Brad Clarke; the *2016 MBTA Vehicle Inventory* by Jonathan Belcher; a *This Time in History* feature by the editorial staff; and *Southwest Corridor Reopening Revisited* by Nick Tomkavage.

The *RollSign* continues to take on a more colorful appearance. Two factors have contributed to this gradual change: all-color printing and an increase in current event photo submittals. The *RollSign* Editor received many photo submissions and it was difficult to choose from all of them, even if their quality merited publication in the magazine. Your editor is grateful for these contributions.

The *RollSign* would not be possible without the hard work and contributions of many BSRA members and friends of the Association. Fitting all of this content into 112 pages each year can be a challenging task. The *RollSign* Editor extends his thanks to the following who make this publication possible including Edward A. Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Tadd Anderson, Henry Bain, Brandon Barlow, the Cambridge Fire Department, Rico Gomes, Sam Hegg, Felix Kaplan, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Byron Nash, Ray Nault, Sara Nelson, Scott Page, John Pellegrino, Helen Pillsbury, Tom Santarelli, Eric Shito, Barry Steinberg, Jon Yee, and George Zeiba.

Report of the Vice-President

Over the course of the year the Vice President has monitored the mailbox on the Association's website, responding to some requests and forwarding others to appropriate officers. He provided written responses to other correspondence, and acknowledgements for memorial donations. He has prepared the press releases for the monthly meetings, and regularly assists at these meetings. He proof reads reports and drafts for other officers and directors, and reviews financial statements. These statements include annual filings prepared by the Treasurer for the Internal Revenue Service and the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Public Charities.

The Vice-President submits the Annual Corporate reports to the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Recently, he has been gathering information for property and liability insurance purposes. He prepares the report of the nomination committee for presentation to the membership, and submits a proxy ballot to the annual meeting of the Heritage Railroad Alliance (formerly ATRRM) on behalf of the Association.

Report of the Secretary

The Secretary handled the large amount of paperwork required by the Association to function properly. Included were the processing of membership renewals and records along with donations to the 5706 and General Funds that were received with renewals.

The Secretary also handled receipt of ballots from the members for the annual election of officers and directors and managed the election at the Annual Meeting. The Secretary additionally took the minutes of the monthly Business Meetings and the quarterly Directors' Meetings.

Our mailing list now numbers 761. Since October 1, 2016, we have added 25 new paid members, and we lost 48 due to attrition, for a net loss of 23 paid members. Our membership and *RollSign* circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

Mailing List Category	2016	2017
Regular	445	431
Intermediate	6	6
Associate	217	209
Subscriber	80	79
Honorary	6	6
Complimentary	29	30
Totals	783	761

Report of the Entertainment Chair

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to all our presenters at our 2016 – 2017 meetings, as well as those of years past.

Lucius Chiaraviglio continues as Entertainment Chair, arranging presentations and managing the Entertainment Calendar. Dana Frisbee, our Entertainment AV Manager, earns a round of applause not heard often enough for his work before and after each of these shows that makes them possible.

Our programs for the 2016 Fiscal Year are listed below. The Association extends its sincere thanks to all our presenters at our 2016 - 2017 meetings, as well as those of years past.

October 1, 2016. Pennsylvania Station, New York: Past, Present and Future. George Chiasson's presentation featured famed Penn Station in New York City through the years including planning, construction, architecture, and operation. The show ended with current projects and the near-term future plans.

November 5, 2016. Boston's South End: Trolleys in Boston's South End. Brad Clarke provided a history of transportation in Boston's South End, including photos of omnibuses and horsecars, the heyday of streetcars, and ended with the Southwest Corridor Orange Line, relocated from the Main Line EI of 1901.

December 3, 2016. A Look Behind the Curtain: China, Cuba, and North Korea. Clive Foss reported on unfamiliar electric traction, mostly from the 1990s – China's three streetcar systems, then in decline; Cuba's Hershey Electric Railway, the country's last interurban; and the world's most inaccessible streetcars; and the all-new system in Pyongyang, North Korea, also with its Stalinist style metro.

January 7, 2017. The meeting was canceled because of snow, and rescheduled to May 6, 2017.

February 4, 2017. American Streetcars in the Late 1950s and Early 1960s. Clark Frazier's digital show of U.S. streetcar and interurban properties featured Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Baltimore, Washington, St. Louis, El Paso, Los Angeles, New Orleans, San

Francisco, Chicago's North Shore Line and various other North American systems that have long since disappeared.

March 4, 2017. Mid-Century Trolley & Railroad Films. Donald Nevin showed videos of movies from the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, which included the Third Avenue El in New York; a Kansas City Public Service Company employee safety film; an early-1950s worker recruiting film from the Los Angeles Railway; and interurban and streetcar service from the 1920s through 1950s in upstate New York and in the Boston area.

April 1, 2017. Toronto Transit in Action. Mike Prescott and Nick Tomkavage offered a cross-section of contemporary transit in Toronto, sharing photos and videos taken on their trip of September 2 - 5, 2016. Included were CLRVs (including two of the three that ran in Boston); ALRVs; new Bombardier Flexity Outlook LRVs and their base at Leslie Carhouse; and the Toronto Subway. The show ended with a Toronto Transportation Society fantrip ride on a PCC car.

May 6, 2017. Sri Lanka: Railways & Culture. Loring Lawrence gave a tour of Sri Lanka's railway lines, bus services, and cultural highlights. We also had a brief look at Asia's smallest nation, the Maldives Islands. Most of the nation is served by the all-diesel broad-gauge government-owned railway system. Some steam is still operable and more is under restoration.

June 3, 2017. Milan Interurbans and French Trams. Peter Ehrlich showed Milan's Désio and Limbiate interurbans, the last two such lines in the Milan area; Boston's four rapid transit lines from the 1980s

through 2000s, and photos of the French Orléans and Bordeaux tramway systems taken in November 2016 and March 2017.

July 8, 2017. Chicagoland Electric Railroads. Donald Nevin showed slides of one of the last surviving electric interurban railroads, the Chicago, South Shore and South Bend, from the 1960s to the 1980s, the Illinois Central Electric to South Chicago, the Chicago, North Shore and Milwaukee in its last months of operation, the Chicago Elevated, and diesel-hauled Chicago-area commuter rail trains.

August 5, 2017. Electric Transit in the 1960s, Part 1. Len Bachelder presented Part I of an electric transit slide show covering the 1960s and early 1970s. Featured were systems in Baltimore, Boston, Brooklyn, Calgary, Cleveland, Dayton, Edmonton, El Paso, Fort Worth, Halifax, Hamilton, Jersey City (PATH), Johnstown, Kitchener (and Waterloo), Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Montreal, Newark, New Orleans, the New York City subway, Chicago including the North Shore Line, and Philadelphia.

September 9, 2017. Early Railroads Serving Boston's Inner North Shore. Bill Lieberman presented a summary of steam railroads that served Winthrop, Orient Heights, and Revere Beach in the 1870s and '80s, based on his new book, *The Train on the Beach*, with a thorough presentation about narrow and standard gauge railroads that complemented — and sometimes competed with — the Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn.

Final Remarks

The Boston Street Railway Association continues its solid record of success, an accomplishment entirely due to the continuing support of you, our members during the 58 years of our existence as a non-profit organization. As we enter fiscal year 2018, we remain optimistic that we will continue to enjoy

your loyal support to the continuing benefit of the Association and its members. We look forward in 2018 to the further advancement of the Type 5 No. 5706 project, our continuing efforts to enhance *RollSign*, and our ongoing monthly meeting entertainment and publications programs.

Respectfully submitted,

The Directors and Officers of the
BOSTON STREET RAILWAY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Bradley H. Clarke, President and Chairman
Thaddeus S. Anderson, Secretary
Thomas Athearn, Vice-President and Clerk of Corporation
Charles Bahne, Jr., Treasurer and Director
Jonathan Belcher, Director at Large
Lucius Chiaraviglio, Entertainment Chair
Ronald Clough, Publications Manager
Daniel R. Cohen, Director at Large
Dana Frisbee, AV Manager
James E. Gately, Librarian
David F. Harling, Director of Car Restoration
Michael R. Prescott, Publications Director
Nicholas M. Tomkavage, *RollSign* Editor and Director