

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

Fifty-Ninth Annual Report

2018

Our 2018 fiscal year, running from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018, has been quite successful, both financially and in the many accomplishments that we were able to achieve. Efforts in our Publications Department, our Type 5 No. 5706 streetcar restoration program, improved *RollSign* content, and another great year of outstanding entertainment programs highlighted the year.

Also of major importance was our financial performance. We saw a surplus of income received over expenses, helped by significant donations to the 5706 Fund and the General Fund. Our Treasurer's annual report presents these details. Your strong support has made great results possible.

Our officers have presented reports, which follow, in their areas of responsibility. Please take the time to review them. We would appreciate hearing any comments that you may have.

We cannot overstate the importance of your continuing support. In a time when much public interest and activity is focused on the internet and the vicarious ways of doing things using that medium, real-life organizations such as ours have to work hard to maintain your interest, something toward which we are constantly working.

Report of the *ROLLSIGN* Director

Since the 2017 Annual Report, the Association has published six issues of *RollSign*: September-October and November-December of 2017; and January-February, March-April, May-June, and July-August of 2018.

The September-October issue contained a review of current happenings around the MBTA with corresponding pictures. The issue featured an article on the 01400 series Red Line cars running at the Seashore Trolley Museum's 2017 Transit Day. The issue also included a *This Time in History* feature with shots of Boston Elevated Railway Yellow Coach No. 2116.

The November-December issue featured a summary of MBTA current events, articles on the retirement of the RTS bus fleet, and the impending opening of the Silver Line 3 to Chelsea. The issue also featured a *This Time in History* segment about the BERy running open cars in the subway during the winter months of 1918.

The January-February issue presented the annual MBTA vehicle inventory, compiled by Jonathan Belcher. Jonathan works throughout the year to provide the Association with accurate information for this issue and others and we are very grateful for his efforts.

The March-April issue featured the opening of the Silver Line 3 to Chelsea and other MBTA current events. Also included in this issue was an article on the opening of Alewife Station by Byron Nash.

The May-June issue had current events on the MBTA with a preview of new Green Line and Orange Line equipment.

A *This Time in History* feature covered the Clarendon Hill Carhouse fire in 1918.

The July-August issue had a summary of current MBTA happenings. The issue also showed a glimpse of the new Type 9 Green Line car, the new Red Line car mockup, and wire cars on the MBTA. A *This Time in History* segment presented Wire Cars, Watertown, and Women on the El.

In the past year your Editor has made an effort to include more detailed current news events articles with supplementary images throughout the publication. We received many photo submissions but it was impossible to include them all, even if their quality merited publication. The Editor is grateful for your submissions and thanks everyone who contributed.

The *RollSign* would not be possible without the hard work and contributions of many BSRA members. Fitting all of this content into 112 pages each year can be a challenging task. The *RollSign* Editor extends his thanks to the members and friends who make our flagship publication possible, including Edward A. Anderson, Tadd Anderson, John Arico, Henry Bain, Ted Bockley, Brandon Barlow, Corey Connors-Reynolds, Jim Devlin, Jake Foley, Rico Gomes, Sam Hegg, James Jay, Felix Kaplan, Robert J. Matusik, Robert Minichiello, Byron Nash, Ray Nault, Sara Nelson, Scott Page, John Pellegrino, Helen Pillsbury, Tom Santarelli, Walter Sapolsky, Eric Shito, Barry Steinberg, Jon Yee, and George Zeiba.

Report of the Publications Director

2018 was a successful year for the BSRA Publications Department. We produced six Publications Catalogues with many popular titles, generating sales via mail order and our online store at www.thebsra.org. Our Publications Manager, Ron Clough, worked year round to fulfill orders and maintain our inventory—often in less than ideal temperatures—and he deserves our thanks for his tireless efforts.

Proceeds from publications sales help us reach our goals and maintain the organization year-round, and we thank everyone who has made purchases from us!

Among this year's best-selling titles were *Chicago Trolleys*; *Baltimore Streetcar Memories*; *Jordan Marsh: New England's Largest Store*; *Cincinnati Streetcar Heritage*; *Toronto Transit Commission Streetcars*; *Trail of the Turbo: The Amtrak Turboliner Story*; *When Atlanta Took the Train*; *The Fort Dodge Line*; *Pittsburgh's Inclines*; *Montgomery County Trolleys*; *Chicago's South Shore Line*; *Cincinnati's Incomplete Subway*; *Back Bay Through Time*; and *Watertown Square Through Time*.

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

gift items including our own publications; and we are able to “fly the flag” and present the show visitors with the Association’s activities and programs.

Our sincere thanks are due our show volunteer staff, which consisted of Mike Prescott, Nick Tomkavage, Dana Frisbee, Sara Nelson, and Paul Tomkavage, with additional support from Danny Cohen, Brad Clarke, Charlie Bahne, Ron Clough, and Bill Pollman.

Work has progressed significantly on the next installment in our *Streetcar Lines of the Hub* book series, and we are working to complete it in 2019.

Report of the Vice-President

During the past year, the Vice-President has monitored the Association’s website, responding to information requests and forwarding other Association business to appropriate officers. He has assisted at the monthly meetings, and prepared the press releases for these meetings. He has provided written responses to other correspondence and acknowledgements for memorial donations. He also has assisted other officers and directors by proofreading reports and drafts, and reviewing financial statements.

The Vice-President submitted Annual Corporate reports to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, and submitted a proxy ballot to the Annual meeting of Heritage Rail Alliance (formerly ATRRM) on behalf of the Association. He has also reviewed the annual filings of the Treasurer to the Internal Revenue Service and the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office of Public Charities.

The Vice-President has worked with insurers to develop proposals for property damage and liability insurance for the Association. These proposals are now under review by the Board of Directors.

Along with other directors, the Vice-President reviewed our contract with Keith Bray to complete restoration work on Car 5706.

Finally, the Vice-President prepared the report of the nomination committee for Fiscal Year 2019 for presentation to the membership.

Report of the Director of Car Restoration

During the past year a lot has transpired with the restoration of our Type Five streetcar. Flooring was installed in 5706 with only vestibule work remaining to be done. This will allow future work to proceed on the roof and the inside of the car. Negotiations for a truck exchange with the Warehouse Point Trolley Museum were completed with the swap taking place in June. We now have a set of trucks in much better condition than the original set that came with 5706.

On April 14, 2018 our highly respected car rebuilder, Bruce Thain, passed away quite suddenly following his years of effort, which left us deeply saddened. We were subsequently put in touch with a recommended, well-qualified streetcar rebuilder, Keith Bray, and we have signed a contract with him to finish the restoration of 5706 at its current location in Guilford, CT.

With heavy steelwork completed, flooring in place, and better trucks on hand, we will focus on roof work. This project will entail partial replacement of roof boards as needed and installation of a new roof canvas.

We still need to complete replacement of the letterboard. This will take place when the roof work is finished. At this point we will apply a finish coat of paint to all remaining primed steelwork. Further down the road, we will begin the installation of the new windows and doors. We anticipate the next months to be quite busy, bringing us much closer to a finished Type Five.

To the many who have given to the restoration of our historic Type 5 streetcar, we offer our deepest thanks. A donation to the 5706 Fund helps preserve the past for the enjoyment of all, including future generations. We have raised \$328,713 for the 5706 Fund through fiscal 2018, and we thank you all for your continuing support.

Report of the Secretary

Our mailing list now numbers 737. Since October 1, 2017, we have added 33 new paid members, and we reinstated 3 more; we lost 55 due to attrition, including 10 deceased, 2 resignations, and 43 who did not renew, for a net loss of 19 paid members. Our membership and ROLLSIGN circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

<u>Mailing List Category</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Regular	430	431
Intermediate	6	6
Associate	192	209
Subscriber	78	79
Honorary	6	6
Complimentary	<u>25</u>	<u>30</u>
Totals	737	761

The Secretary maintained the minutes of the monthly Business Meetings and the quarterly Directors’ Meetings throughout the year on an ongoing basis.

The Secretary also processed membership renewals and donations that were received with renewals to the 5706 Fund and the General Fund. This office also managed the annual election of officers and directors at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Report of the Entertainment Chair

In FY 2018, our Entertainment Chair, Lucius Chiaraviglio, organized our presenters and their programs and prepared Entertainment Calendars for mailing with RollSign and for posting on our website.

Our AV Manager, Dana Frisbee, supported our presenters’ program needs, ensuring the availability of equipment in good working order and accommodating special requirements as the need arose. In addition, following each meeting, he made sure that the meeting room was left as we found it.

The Entertainment Committee thanks all of our presenters in FY 2018 and those of past years as well. We again invite our members and friends to present programs of their own. Please contact us either by mail or at our website with material that you think will be of interest.

October 14, 2017. Transit Archive Volume 3. Donald Nevin presented a DVD that includes three silent films made in the 1920s by the Chicago North Shore and Milwaukee Railroad: “Along the Green Bay Trail”, showing passenger operations; “The Pace of Progress”, showing express freight operations; and “El Cars to the Eucharistic Congress” on June 20 – 24, 1926. This DVD also included one silent film made by Chicago Surface Lines in the 1920s: “Safe Highways”, with trolleys in staged accidents.

November 4, 2017. Electric Transit in the 1960s, Part 2. Leonard Bachelder presented electric transit in the 1960s and early 1970s. This segment included Philadelphia (PTC and Red Arrow), Pittsburgh, St. Joseph, St. Louis, San Francisco, Saskatoon, Seattle, South Shore Line, Staten Island, Thunder Bay, Toronto, Vancouver, Washington, and Winnipeg. This show featured electric trolley buses and streetcars.

December 2, 2017. Jim Schantz's Seashore Trolley Museum Update. Seashore Trolley Museum President Jim Schantz provided an update on recent progress at Seashore, including restoration of important Boston cars, Seashore's activities in Boston, and recent developments on the trolley system in Lowell. Next, he reported on the museum's participation in the streetcar activities of the American Public Transit Association and the Community Streetcar Coalition, and new streetcar projects across North America. He wound up with bonus photos of European transit systems taken many years ago.

January 6, 2018. Meeting and program canceled due to bad weather and rescheduled to September 8, 2018 (see below).

February 3, 2018. Transit in the City of Angels. Nick Tomkavage presented a contemporary review of transit in Los Angeles, showing the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority's light rail system and extensive bus network, and historic streetcar scenes at the Orange Empire Railway Museum.

March 3, 2018. My Beantown Transit Adventure. Byron Nash presented his photographs of every MBTA transit mode other than paratransit, along with archival scenes. Included were bus, all rapid transit and light rail lines, Commuter Rail operations, and boat service.

April 7, 2018. Buffalo, Philadelphia, and Southern New Jersey. Donald Nevin showed photos he took of Buffalo Metro Rail in 1987, followed by views of transportation in Philadelphia and the nearby part of New Jersey in 2003 – 2004. Included were SEPTA trolleys, trolley buses, and work equipment, as well New Jersey Transit River Line service and a bit of the PATCO Speedline.

May 12, 2018. Electric Transit of Kyoto. Nick Tomkavage shared photos and videos of the various forms of electric transit in greater Kyoto. He showed scenes of the Keifuku Electric Railroad's Randen-Arashiyama and Kintano tram lines, street running on the Keihan

Final Remarks

We close Fiscal 2018 with strong positive expectations for the coming year. As always, our hopes for the future continue to be sustained by your continuing support.

Keishin Line, Japan Railway's Osaka Loop line and other interurban lines.

June 2, 2018. New Jersey Transit. Mike Prescott presented a contemporary review of New Jersey Transit operations, with an emphasis on light rail. The Hudson-Bergen Light Rail (from 8th Street to Bergen line Ave) and Newark Light Rail (from Penn Station to Broad Street Station) were featured, as well as various commuter rail and bus scenes in Jersey City, Hoboken, Bayonne, Newark, and Atlantic City.

July 14, 2018. Electric Railways of the Connecticut Valley. Leo Sullivan presented a vintage tour of trolley systems going down the Connecticut River Valley, from Greenfield to Hartford and travelling back in time 80 years or more.

August 4, 2018. Avoiding Liability in Transportation Planning: Streetcars, Bicycles and the Roadway. Franklyn P. Salimbene, senior lecturer in law at Bentley University, presented his paper on a lawsuit in Seattle, Washington, involving several bicyclists who sued the City for injuries they sustained resulting from their wheels being caught in the flange of streetcar tracks on the new West Lake Avenue North streetcar line. The presentation included a historical perspective on the development of streetcars and bicycles as means of transportation in the late 19th century, the legal underpinnings and decision regarding the Seattle suit, and methods being developed in three cities to resolve the dangers of the interface between streetcars and bicycles on urban roadways.

September 8, 2018. Southern New England Railroad and Trolley Operations in the Mid-20th Century. Donald Nevin presented two videos of New England railroad and trolley movies. The first video, *A Great Railroad at Work*, was a publicity film made by the New Haven Railroad in 1942, to illustrate to the general public all the various aspects of railroad operation and maintenance, from bookkeeping to marine operations to train operations. The second DVD, *The Connecticut Company*, was footage filmed by railfans of the Connecticut Company's trolley operations from 1945 to 1948 in the New Haven Division, which was the last segment to operate trolley service. This video also included bonus footage of some of the older electric locomotives of the New Haven Railroad.

Everything that we have accomplished over the years has its roots in a continuing, energetic and interested membership base, in short all of you! Thank you!

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
Daniel George Chaisson, Assistant Treasurer
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

**Boston Street Railway Association
Annual Treasurer's Report**

**Fiscal Year 2018
(after adjustments)**

General Fund			
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	October 1, 2017	\$8,411.79
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018:			
Donations and Grants, General Fund		\$14,700.19	
Dues, Regular		\$10,525.00	
Dues, Intermediate		\$120.00	
Dues, Associate		\$3,920.00	
Roll Sign, Subscriptions		\$1,248.00	
Postage Surcharges from Members		\$174.00	
Roll Sign, Retail		\$742.00	
Roll Sign, Wholesale		\$264.00	
BSRA Publications, Retail		\$2,690.99	
BSRA Publications, Wholesale		\$1,132.14	
Publications, Resale		\$24,047.73	
Publications, Sales Tax Collected		\$672.88	
Publications, Shipping & Handling		\$2,814.51	
Fantrip Income			
Other General Fund Income		\$69.10	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR FY 2018:			\$63,120.54
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018:			
Management & General Expenses		\$4,510.03	
Roll Sign Printing		\$10,133.43	
Roll Sign Postage & Mailing Service		\$3,936.54	
Other Roll Sign Expenses		\$1,467.31	
BSRA Publications Printing & Production			
Other BSRA Publications Expenses			
Purchase of Inventory for Resale		\$16,262.03	
Publications Marketing & Show Expense		\$5,947.72	
Publications, Sales Tax Paid		\$669.92	
Publications Shipping Expense		\$3,013.45	
Other Publications Sales Expenses		\$6,555.79	
Monthly Meeting Expense		\$3,340.00	
Library Expense		\$1,653.00	
Fantrip Expense		\$35.86	
Fundraising Expense		\$785.42	
Refunds Paid & Returned Checks			
Other General Fund Expense		\$50.00	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2018:			\$58,360.50
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018:			\$4,760.04
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	September 30, 2018	\$13,171.83
5706 Fund			
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	October 1, 2017	\$77,798.94
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018:			
Donations and Grants, 5706 Fund		\$21,693.16	
Interest, 5706 Fund		\$130.98	
Other 5706 Fund Income			
TOTAL 5706 FUND INCOME FOR FY 2018:			\$21,824.14
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018:			
Car 5706 Restoration Expense		\$13,577.72	
Car 5706 Maintenance & Housing		\$4,350.00	
Car 5706 Project Management		\$607.06	
Car 5706 Fundraising Expense		\$2,050.15	
Other 5706 Fund Expense			
TOTAL 5706 FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2018:			\$20,584.93
5706 FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018:			\$1,239.21
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	September 30, 2018	\$79,038.15
COMBINED CASH ON HAND:	September 30, 2018		\$92,209.98
PROOF OF BALANCE:			
Cash		\$0.00	
Checking		\$5,716.31	
Money Market		\$85,687.31	
Savings		\$359.82	
PayPal		\$446.54	
Square		\$0.00	
GRAND TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$92,209.98	VARIANCE: \$0.00
5706 FUND GRAND TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:		\$328,713.29	