

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.

Fifty-Seventh Annual Report

2016

Summary

This annual report covers a number of significant accomplishments, including our new book: *Boston's MTA – Through Riverside and Beyond*. We also enjoyed our best year since 2009 in fundraising for both the General and the 5706 funds, and we began publishing *ROLLSIGN* in full color.

We saw strong sales both of the new book and our regular publications offerings, and had a net gain in our membership and dues revenue totals, reversing a slight downward trend in past years. Also, our hard-working entertainment committee produced another great series of post business meeting presentations.

Our Vice-President and Secretary were both extremely busy, supporting an active year as you will see in their respective reports, which follow. The Treasurer was fully occupied with new book sales as well as the constant ebb and flow of funds that characterize a busy non-profit such as ours.

Notwithstanding our successes we had a significant deficit for the year from two factors: the new book and a sudden, unexpected change in our meeting location. These two extraordinary General Fund expenses resulted in a deficit of \$7,016. If we hadn't had these two expenses, the General Fund would have showed a surplus of over \$1,000.

Overall costs of publishing our new book came to \$27,701. The portion of new book costs not covered by sales was \$3,958. We expect future sales to recoup this easily.

Following our August meeting, we were informed with no advance warning that the room at the Grand Lodge of Masons where had been meeting since 1986 was no longer available. Moving quickly, we were able to secure a good location in the Midtown Hotel. To lock in a satisfactory price, we incurred an extraordinary cost of \$4,125 for an advance payment of our monthly room rental through FY2017 and into 3 months of FY2018. Again, we should recoup this money in 2017 since we will not be paying monthly room rent for the entire year.

Overall, 2016 went well and we appreciate your unflinching support for your Association and its charitable and educational goals. Thank you all, our members and friends, for your continuing help and encouragement.

Report of the Publications Director

The 2016 fiscal year saw the publication of our 25th Bulletin, *Boston's MTA: Through Riverside and Beyond*, by Bradley H. Clarke. This 234-page hardcover book is the second in the Streetcar Lines of the Hub series. It is the result of years of research and writing by the author, as well as many contributors, including the late Gerry

O'Regan, who prepared the maps for the book but unfortunately passed away shortly before its publication. The new book was published in October 2015, and marketing began right away. We distributed copies to eligible BSRA members; offered copies for sale to all our members and customers; and began wholesale marketing to get the book into local bookstores and online stores for the busy holiday season.

We saw tremendous sales through the holidays and into 2016. Special thanks are due our Warehouse Manager, Ron Clough, for his hard work in fulfilling all of these orders in a timely and organized manner and to Tadd Anderson, Tom Athearn, and Dave Harling for handling the mailing to our membership. Marketing efforts for the book have continued and expanded to museum stores and libraries, and we are looking to place it with additional retailers in 2016.

To coincide with the publication of the new book, we also overhauled our website, relaunching it using the WordPress platform. This allows us to update our content more quickly and easily, positioning it for expansion in the future, including original historical content. Keep an eye out in the coming year for a number of new and exciting features!

In January, we manned our booth at the annual Amherst Railway Society Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA. This year, we purchased advertising space in the show program for the new book and we saw a large number of visitors seeking it, once again setting a sales record for the show weekend! Many thanks are due our volunteer staff of Mike Prescott, Nick Tomkavage, Dana Frisbee, and Paul Tomkavage, with added support from Danny Cohen, Brad Clarke, Charlie Bahne, Ron Clough, and Bill Pollman.

In December, we staffed a booth at the HUB Division's New England Model Train EXPO on Marlborough, MA. We don't normally attend this show, but did so to help market our new book, and the weekend was a success. Thanks are again due the folks named above for their invaluable assistance!

We produced six catalogues, which included a variety of books, DVDs, gift items, and more, all of which were also made available in our online store. Among the more popular titles this year were the second edition of *Elevated Railways of Manhattan*; *Capital Streetcars*; *First & Fastest Magazine*; *Transit Maps of the World*; *Chicago Streetcar Pictorial: The PCC Car Era*; *Chicago Surface Lines*; *Trolleys of Pennsylvania*; and *Toronto Streetcars Serve the City*.

As always, proceeds from catalog sales go directly to our General Fund. This is one of our primary methods of year-

round fundraising. and we thank all our customers for their business and their support!

Report of the Director of Car Restoration

Since 5706 has been at Rail Technical Services in Guilford, CT, the replacement of the steel framing and plate sheathing has taken place outdoors because of the hot riveting and welding work that the car required. It has been stored in a temporary storage building during work sessions. Now the remaining work, mechanical, electrical and woodworking will be done indoors, and on May 21 of this year, the car was moved into the Rail Technical Services shop building in space freed up by completion of Washington car No. 766.

Continuing work on 5706 this fall will include the assembly and installation of the brake rigging and the sub-flooring. With the floor in place, work can begin on outfitting the interior of 5706. The new window sash, purchased earlier, will be fitted with safety glass, ready for installation in the car. Additionally two new replacement air tanks will be purchased and equipped with fittings unique to the Type Five. Plumbing, wiring, and installation of sash and doors will follow. Rebuilding the truck frames and replacing or refurbishing the wheel and axle sets is also high on our list. We are asking for requests for quotations to shops that handle this type of work, and we are continuing to submit funding grant applications to a number of organizations.

Restoration of antique trolley cars is typically a multi-year project, and the work on No. 5706 is no exception. Your continued support of this restoration has been strong and very effective, and we express as always our deep appreciation for your past, present and future help.

Report of the *ROLLSIGN* Director

The Association published six issues of *ROLLSIGN* in fiscal 2016. Feature articles included the annual MBTA Bus Roadeo; a picture review of regional transit authorities in Massachusetts; a "This Time in History" section covering the years 1915, 1940, 1965, and 1990; Jonathan Belcher's annual MBTA vehicle inventory; a photo survey of the newly-opened Government Center Station, a roundup of New England Transit News, and a historical piece from Ed Anderson entitled, "Worcester Trolleys Remembered Again." Several issues had sections devoted to current transit events and obituaries for a number of deceased members including Gerry O'Regan, Frank Stieger, Rev. Richard Driscoll, Lester Stephenson, Col. Robert FitzGerald, Stanley Genthner, and Paul Frazier, a BSRA founder.

Much of this content was made through the efforts of our contributors who included Rico Gomes of the MBTA, Edward A. Anderson, Ryan Anderson, Tadd Anderson, Brandon Barlow, Daniel Cohen, Jacob Foley, Felix Kaplan, Robert Matusik, Larry Mills, Robert Minichiello, Ray Nault, Scott Page, Herb Pence, Scott Ryder, Barry Steinberg, Vivian Thain, John Yee, and George Zieba.

The *ROLLSIGN* continued to take on gradual changes in appearance and design during 2016, largely inspired by the newfound freedom afforded by our ability to print every page in color, starting with the November-December 2015 issue. Previously, color content was restricted to

alternating spreads, which limited the magazine to a very specific content structure. Our freedom to print in all color allows articles and images to flow more freely throughout the publication. As more all color issues are produced, the magazine will continue to take on a different, more lucid appearance.

The masthead and boilerplate found on page 2 of each issue has also been redesigned for color content. Michael Prescott, the Association's Publications Director, is also a professional graphic designer and has influenced many of these changes. We are very grateful to Mike for his contributions.

The *ROLLSIGN* would not be possible without the efforts of our contributors and the *ROLLSIGN* staff. Fitting all of this content into 112 pages each year is a challenging, and your *ROLLSIGN* Editor extends his thanks to each of you.

Report of the Vice-President

The Vice President handles much of the day-to-day paperwork that keeps your Association going during the year. He submits the Annual Corporate report to the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and helps the Treasurer with annual financial reports required by the IRS and the Public Charities Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General. Preparation of the report of the Nominating Committee, and management of our membership affairs with the Association of Tourist Railroads and Railroad Museums are also part of the Vice-President's responsibilities.

Responding to routine information requests from members and the public on our website and through the mail is handled on an ongoing basis. This office also handles matters of a historical nature and membership inquiries. Special donation acknowledgements such as those from bequests and memorial donations for decedents are another aspect of the work accomplished by the Vice President. This year this office also assisted in the distribution of the Association's latest publication to Regular and Intermediate members.

The Vice-President helps run the monthly meetings, and prepares the press releases for them. He also assists all officers and directors by proofreading reports and drafts, and reviewing financial proposals.

Report of the Secretary

During the past fiscal year, the Secretary processed membership renewals and records along with donations to the 5706 and General Funds that were received at the time of renewals. He also handled receipt of ballots from the members for the annual election of officers and directors and coordinated the election process at the Annual Meeting.

The Secretary also managed the mailing of the BSRA's newest publication entitled "Boston's MTA: Through Riverside and Beyond," working along with the Vice-President and the Director of Car Restoration. This ensured that the regular and intermediate members received their book in a timely manner.

The Secretary sends cards to the families of deceased members, handles specialty mailings to the members and

mails out donation receipts. The Secretary also takes the minutes of the monthly Business Meetings and the quarterly Directors' Meetings.

Our paid membership remained stable again this year, and our mailing list now numbers 783. Since October 1, 2015, we added 49 new paid members, reinstated 1, and lost 48 due to attrition, including 13 deceased, 1 resignation, and 34 who did not renew, for a net gain of 2 paid members. Our membership and *ROLLSIGN* circulation statistics, as of September 30 of each year, were as follows:

Mailing List Category	2016	2015
Regular	445	439
Intermediate	6	3
Associate	218	230
Subscriber	81	76
Honorary	6	7
Complimentary	27	27
Totals	783	782

Report of the Entertainment Chair

Lucius Chiaraviglio continued as Entertainment Chair, locating shows and organizing the Entertainment Calendar. Before our business meetings we showed traction videos (VHS and DVD), and as always we invite members to participate.

Dana Frisbee, our Entertainment AV Manager, earns a round of applause not heard often enough, for his steadfast work before each of these shows that makes them possible, and whose unfaltering work at the end of the meetings assures that everything in the room is in good order when we leave.

The BSRA extends its sincere thanks to all our presenters at our 2015 - 2016 meetings, as well as those of years past. Our programs for the 2016 Fiscal Year are listed below.

October 3, 2015. The Bachelor's NRHS Convention Adventure Part 2. Leonard and Nancy Bachelor attended the 2013 NRHS convention in Alaska, making a 6-week trip through Canada and Alaska. Part 1 was shown in March. Part 2 continued from the Yukon Territory into Alaska, the Alaska Railroad, the NRHS Convention, and a bit of Seattle.

Final Remarks

We look forward to a successful year in 2017. With your continued support, we are confident that we will show continued progress toward our educational, charitable, and preservation goals.

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

November 7, 2015. New York City Area Commuter Rail: The 1950s to the 1970s. Eric Oszustowicz showed scenes from the New York metro area. Included were the New Haven, New York Central, Jersey Central, Erie Lackawanna, Pennsylvania, Penn Central, and Long Island Railroads, followed by the beginnings of service on these lines under the modern transit agencies.

December 5, 2015. Jim Schantz's Seashore Trolley Museum Update. Seashore Trolley Museum chair Jim Schantz provided an update on recent progress at Seashore, including restoration of important Boston cars, Seashore's activities in Boston, and recent developments in the expansion of the trolley system in Lowell (including plans for a museum presence). Finally, Jim reported on the museum's participation in the streetcar activities of the American Public Transit Association and the Community Streetcar Coalition, and Involvement with new streetcar projects across North America, with bonus photos of Paris trams and new US-built modern light rail vehicles.

January 9, 2016. Vintage Boston: Green Line and Beyond. Clark Frazier showed the Green Line in the late 1970s and early 1980s, featuring the twilight of PCC operation, early Boeing LRVs, the Canadian Light Rail Vehicle (CLRV) tests in 1980, and material from the Orange, Blue, Red, and Commuter Rail lines from the same period.

February 6, 2016. RollSign Archives. The *RollSign* Magazine archives hold over a century of unique Boston transit images, including many rarely seen views from *RollSign* Magazine through the years. Editor Nick Tomkavage presented a collection of images that were never published, or were featured decades ago.

March 5, 2016. The T, Then and Now. Henry Marrec made Super 8 movies of MBTA operations in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and in the Blizzards of 1978. Now on DVD with narration, he showed this footage, along with high definition Video in 2008 and 2010, some bonus photos of the original Red Line cars, and video footage of New York City elevated operations.

April 2, 2016. A Baltic Sea Outing. Herb Pence showed slides he took in 2015 of the Coast Tram in Belgium; the Tram Museum of Amsterdam in the Netherlands; Route 7 in Stockholm, Sweden; and scenes from Helsinki, Finland, plus slides he took in 1999 of Athens, Greece; in 2000 of Birmingham, England; and in 2004 of Southboro, Massachusetts, USA.

May 7, 2016. The Trams of Milan. Peter Ehrlich presented a digital slide show on the streetcars of Milan, Italy, covering the period between 1997 and 2015. Peter has made numerous visits to Milan, and his show focused on the urban tram network and its diverse fleet ranging from the 1928 Peter Witt cars to the low-floor Sirio. Somewhat fewer than 200 Peter Witts are still in service today, making them the oldest active fleet in Europe!

June 4, 2016. More Trolleys in the South, and the Sacramento Northern in Motion. Donald Nevin returned with trolleys and interurbans in the South and Mid-Atlantic featuring Savannah, Georgia; the Potomac Edison Railway in Maryland; the Baltimore and Annapolis Railway on a fantrip in 1935; and Knoxville, Tennessee. Next was the Sacramento Northern in 1940, with passenger and freight rail operation in Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland, and Chico, as well as an interurban train ferry.

July 9, 2016. Traction in Worcester and Environs. Our July meeting featured a presentation by Leo Sullivan on the Worcester Consolidated Street Railway Company in Worcester and its surrounding towns. This was a history-filled evening with vintage images from a great Central Massachusetts transit property.

August 6, 2016. Vintage Boston: Green Line PCC Twilight, Part 2. Clark Frazier presented views of the Green Line from mid-1980 to the early 1990s, featuring the end of PCC operation, the transition to full Boeing LRV operation, and the arrival of the Type 7s. The show also included the Orange Line Elevated, Mattapan-Ashmont, and MBTA Commuter Rail from the same period.

September 10, 2016. Calgary, San Diego, and El Paso. In 1990, Donald Nevin travelled through Canada on the last VIA train to run on the Canadian Pacific, and then rode down the West Coast of the United States. The presentation featured Calgary, Alberta; Angels Flight in Los Angeles (in 1968); San Diego; the Orange Empire Railway Museum in Perris, California; and El Paso, Texas (in 1968).

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

**Fiscal Year 2016
(after adjustments)**

General Fund			
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	October 1, 2015	\$12,521.65
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016:			
Donations and Grants, General Fund		\$13,847.79	
Dues, Regular		\$11,125.00	
Dues, Intermediate		\$80.00	
Dues, Associate		\$4,340.00	
Roll Sign, Subscriptions		\$1,264.00	
Postage Surcharges from Members		\$403.00	
Roll Sign, Retail		\$645.50	
Roll Sign, Wholesale		\$294.00	
BSRA Publications, Retail		\$16,537.35	
BSRA Publications, Wholesale		\$7,145.34	
Publications, Resale		\$22,938.63	
Publications, Sales Tax Collected		\$1,160.83	
Publications, Shipping & Handling		\$3,643.09	
Fantrip Income			
Other General Fund Income		\$62.84	
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME FOR FY 2016:			\$83,487.37
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016:			
Management & General Expenses		\$5,793.05	
Roll Sign Printing		\$10,592.59	
Roll Sign Postage & Mailing Service		\$3,326.90	
Other Roll Sign Expenses		\$1,308.64	
BSRA Publications Printing & Production		\$25,560.43	
Other BSRA Publications Expenses		\$2,140.59	
Purchase of Inventory for Resale		\$13,344.09	
Publications Marketing & Show Expense		\$7,342.97	
Publications, Sales Tax Paid		\$1,122.13	
Publications Shipping Expense		\$4,000.46	
Other Publications Sales Expenses		\$6,475.23	
Monthly Meeting Expense		\$7,010.34	
Library Expense		\$1,504.00	
Fantrip Expense			
Fundraising Expense		\$891.01	
Refunds Paid & Returned Checks			
Other General Fund Expense			
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2016:			\$90,412.43
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016:			(\$6,925.06)
Cash on Hand:	General Fund	September 30, 2016	\$5,596.59
5706 Fund			
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	October 1, 2015	\$62,631.15
INCOME FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016:			
Donations and Grants, 5706 Fund		\$18,806.18	
Interest, 5706 Fund		\$134.96	
Other 5706 Fund Income			
TOTAL 5706 FUND INCOME FOR FY 2016:			\$18,941.14
EXPENSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016:			
Car 5706 Restoration Expense			
Car 5706 Maintenance & Housing		\$675.00	
Car 5706 Project Management		\$167.78	
Car 5706 Fundraising Expense		\$1,604.63	
Other 5706 Fund Expense			
TOTAL 5706 FUND EXPENSE FOR FY 2016:			\$2,447.41
5706 FUND SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016:			\$16,493.73
Cash on Hand:	5706 Fund	September 30, 2016	\$79,124.88
COMBINED CASH ON HAND:	September 30, 2016		\$84,721.47
PROOF OF BALANCE:			
Cash		\$0.00	
Checking		\$4,077.20	
Money Market		\$79,871.26	
Savings		\$337.57	
PayPal		\$435.44	
Square		\$0.00	
GRAND TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$84,721.47	VARIANCE: \$0.00
5706 FUND GRAND TOTAL RAISED TO DATE:		\$286,700.56	