



## **2019 Council of Councils Meeting**

Double Tree Inn and Suites, Seattle Airport - South Center, Seattle, WA

February 9, 2019

Sarah Geist, representing the host council (NorthWest Van Council), welcomed the reps and audience.

Michelle Seward thanked NorthWest for hosting the event and called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM. Michelle told the reps that she would be the "substitute teacher" for the day. She reminded everyone about the cell phone rules. \$5 fine if your cell phone rings during the meeting. \$10 fine if you answer it. \$20 fine if you're sneaky and start answering and communicating via text message. Michelle is running the meeting this year in Geoff, Dave and Kathy's absence. John, who is the only member of the Council of Councils (CofC) Board attending this meeting, will be taking the minutes, as usual.

Taz made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the 2018 meeting. The motion was carried, but not unanimously. One council wanted the minutes from the 2018 meeting to be read.

Michelle welcomed everyone and introduced the Council of Councils (CofC) Board: John Cunningham. Dave Hufstader and Kathy Willis could not get off from work and Geoff Koome had some troubles getting across the border so none of these CofC Board members made it this year.

Janet Kelson, from NorthWest, also took minutes, just in case John missed anything.

Roll Call: Michelle thanked the 22 councils who registered for the meeting on line. There were 25 councils represented at this meeting.

Judith introduced the National Truck-in (NATS) Board, including those new members who were voted in yesterday.

There were no requests for new councils to join the group.

Michelle reviewed the requirements for a council to host the annual CofC meeting. These rules can always be found at <http://www.councilofcouncils.org/>

Just click on "Guidelines and Application for hosting a CofC" Direct link is:

<http://www.councilofcouncils.org/p/loading.html>

Bids need to be in to the CofC Board by January 15! Thursday night of CofC is when a test presentation happens but the CofC Board needs time to review before arriving at the CofC, thus Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Bids for hosting the 2020 Council of Councils meeting: The reps were reminded that no matter who wins the bid, you always get the latest and correct information on [www.councilofcouncils.com](http://www.councilofcouncils.com), which always points to the current CofC meeting hosts.

There were 3 bids presented for the 2020 CofC meeting:

New England Van Council (NEVC): February 5 - 9, 2020 at Wyndam Providence Hotel in Rhode Island. The hotel has a shuttle which will take you to and from the airport and most anywhere within a 3 to 4 miles from the hotel. Room rate is \$109 per night. There will be bus tours. NEVC had hosted the 2013 CofC meeting and decided to make a bid for the 2020 meeting after Florida cancelled their proposed bid.

Nordic Van Council (NVC): February 20 - 23, 2020 in Oslo, Norway. Room rates are: Single \$95, Double \$120 and triple \$145. They go by persons in the room, not room size. Price includes all taxes and breakfast. These prices are based on today's exchange rate. There will probably be some minor change in the exchange rate between now and February 2020. These prices will hold from February 17 - 24, 2020. Round trip airfare to Oslo at this time of year ranges from \$300 to \$600, depending on which U.S. city you are departing from. Trip from the hotel to the airport is about 25 minutes. And, the transportation system over there is awesome, so getting around is no problem. The subway station is just a 4-minute walk from the hotel.

Marius noted that there won't be any language barrier because 96% of the Norwegians speak English. Passport will be required, but no special visas are required. Beer is not cheap, it's \$10. Excursions can be set up, but will depend on what the vanners want to do and see.

Wisconsin Van Council (WVC): February 5 - 9, 2020 at Milwaukee Crowne Plaza, Milwaukee

Airport, 6401 South 13th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221, 414-764-5300, the same hotel they used for the CofC meeting in 1991. Considering the other bids, this location might be the warmest option. Room rate \$95/night Single/Double -\$109/night Triple/Quad. Casinos, Harley-Davidson Museum - Tour, Cafe, Bar. Shuttle from airport to hotel.

At the conclusion of the presentation Michelle asked each of the bidding councils the customary question, if they would make another bid next year if they failed to get this bid. NEVC said "Yes" and NVC and WVC said "No" because it does take a lot of time, effort and resources just to make the bid.

Ballots were passed out to each council for the vote on where the 2020 CofC meeting will be held. Michelle noted that there would be a 10-minute break before counting the ballots as some reps wanted to confer with other members of their council who were not in the meeting room, and, in some cases, make phone calls to other members of their council before casting their ballot.

The meeting was reconvened at 10:30 AM.

46th National Truck-in®: Judith noted that the 46th National Truck-in® - Truckin' In To Tomorrow (TITT) donated \$1061 to their Pets charity, \$1000 to the Museum of Vanning, and \$1000 to the 47th Nats as part of the "pay it forward" process we have been doing. She also noted that there were 700+ vans who showed up to the event.

47th National Truck-in® - July 24 - 28, 2019 at Greenfield, Massachusetts Hosted by New England Van Council, Inc. Judy Baker gave the update. First of all DON'T SHOW UP EARLY AT THE GATE! Gate should be open by 9 AM on Monday. There is simply no room on the shoulder of the road to park, so you WILL BE TOWED in addition to the \$150 fine! There is a campground nearby, so plan to stay there and leave for the Nats on Monday morning a little before 9 AM. If you're interested in things to do, Boston is 2 hours drive. There will be several EMTs on the grounds and there are grocery stores nearby. There will be a band every night, carnival acts (knife throwing, etc.), distillery tour, Vanners Night In - Smoke House BBQ.

There will be a shower trailer (4 men, 4 women), 20 flush toilets, golf cart rentals for \$300, Show 'n Shine - Horse track with police escort, Ice available, ADA showers & restrooms available. Commemorative booklet will have discounts for local merchants.

#### Scheduled topics:

Wisconsin Van Council: Need to address the pre-lineup at the Nats. There has always been a pre-lineup, so we need to figure out how to address it. Bill-o noted that you're making rules for folks who just don't like rules. The group concluded that the only reasonable fix is for the host to work with law enforcement, explain the problem, and be sure there is a campground nearby so there won't be a pre-lineup problem.

First aid for the Nats needs to be better maintained. Someone with certification should be on site at all times. This should be a priority for all events. Not only should there be someone

qualified on site at all times, but the host council should be able to contact that individual/those individuals 24/7.

New Jersey Van Council: Nationals Van Show Judging Sheet needs revision. The judging sheet will be re-evaluated, working with the Nats Board.

Greater New York Van Council: How are councils/clubs/groups dealing with private golf carts, scooters, etc., insurance, DWIs, headlights, & all that at events? At night, cars, golf carts, scooters and bicycles need to have headlights. Tom Chronister noted that they should have lights, horn, insurance and no more than 4 persons in the cart. Judith noted that it is the host club/council's responsibility to enforce golf cart rules. It's a safety issue, since most of us are walking at the events. If necessary, take the keys away from the offender.

#### Unscheduled topics:

Doc (NEVC) noted that the Ontario exchange rate is currently \$.75 to \$1.00. Maybe we should consider helping our northern neighbors by either accepting Canadian dollars for entry to our events or giving them a discount.

Howard noted that the Ontario Van Fest is the second week of June. Show 'n Shine and Bands 2 nights. He suggested that you fill up on the U.S. side of the border or you will be paying \$5 a gallon for gas on the Canadian side.

There are patches for sale in memory of our old friend Bev, from the UK. All profits from the sale of these patches will go to the Museum of Vanning. There was a moment of silence for all of our lost vanners and service personnel.

#### Open Discussion:

A. Vanner Museum Update: Joe mentioned the names of all the folks who have helped on the museum during the past year. He noted that they have over 200 memberships and that he has received donations in excess of \$3K this weekend, which is very good support.

The museum has quite an extensive inventory, including 66 club jackets on display. They also have a new website, which has a new on-line gift shop, where you can make purchases or donate to the museum. Joe has set up an endowment fund, so that the museum can hire a curator to continue operations after Joe passes away. Vince suggested that each club should donate \$50 towards the fund for getting air conditioning for the museum. Joe noted that, in the Florida heat and humidity, lots of cloth and paper exhibits will get moldy, or crumble, so the a/c is not a luxury, but an investment in saving all the artifacts for future vanners to enjoy. There will be a van show in April. Joe again thanked all the vanners for their support of the museum.

Council of Councils 2020 Michelle announced that Wisconsin won the vote and we'll be going to Milwaukee, WI for the 2020 Council of Councils meeting.

Ma passed the torch as she presented the Pass-Along Plaque to Wisconsin. She also thanked

all the members of NorthWest, who helped out so much to make this event a success.

Bill-o made a motion to adjourn and the meeting was concluded at approximately 11:25 PM.

NorthWest gave a parting gift to each of the reps as they departed the room.

ATTENDEES AT THE 2019 COUNCIL OF COUNCILS MEETING:

1. A.L.I.V.E.
2. Colorado Van Council
3. Corn Belt Van Council
4. Downstate Illinois Van Council
5. Florida Van Council
6. Greater New York Van council
7. Heart of America Van Council
8. Maryland Van Council
9. Midwest Van Council
10. Missouri Van Council
11. National Street Van Association UK
12. New England Van Council
13. New Jersey Van Council
14. Northeast Ohio Van Congress
15. Nordic Van Council
16. Northern California Van Council
17. Northwest Van Council
18. Ontario Federation of Vanners
19. Pacific Van Council
20. Pennsylvania Van Council Inc.
21. Southeast Van Council, Inc.
22. Southern Ohio Van Council
23. Texas Van Federation
24. V.O.I.C.E.S.
25. Wisconsin Van Council

2019 meeting minutes taken by Janet Kelson, from NorthWest, and John M. Cunningham, Secretary of the CofC Board.