

Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter welcomed all officers, board members, committee heads and other Division members.

Board Members Present (11): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, John Falk, Walt Liles, Alan Mole, Joe Sullivan, David Gelmini, Norm Lundin, Brian Sandberg, and Chris White

Board members absent (3): Perry Lamb, Joe Maiuro, and Charlie Crawford, MMR.

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (11)*: Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin MMR, Gary Jarabek, Chuck Hoesch, Steve Funsten, Scott Povlot, Paul Voelker, Tom Banks, Jim Hobbs, Tyler Gelmini, Joe Gelmini MMR., Craig Knox, Milt Burge, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Randall Watson, and Martin Guldner.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White The June 2016 Minutes were approved following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Jim Travis. Walt Liles wished to thank Rick Coble, on behalf of the Board of Directors, for filling in for Chris White at the June meeting.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe sent the June financial reports by email and informed there was very little financial activity for the Division during the month of June. The June financial report was approved following a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by David Gelmini.

Operations—Walt Liles Walt sent a report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. Walt updated the Board on the status of clinics in the near future. George Eichelberger was to be the clinician for the August meeting but has not returned Walt's calls. Walt may have to fill in at the last minute with a clinic he recently presented at the SER Convention. Walt also informed the Board that the annual RPM meeting has been cancelled due to the inability to make suitable arrangements with the Kennesaw Museum. Walt also indicated he was going to provide information on future clinics on the Division website and also the Division Facebook account. He encouraged more Division members to become more pro-active with Facebook.

Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce Royal sent a report by email. There were 84 members at the June meeting. The 12-month rolling average attendance is 104. Royal also presented to the Board a list of members who had not renewed their NMRA membership. The total Piedmont Division membership at the end of June was 407, down 9 from the beginning of the year. Royal also informed the Board that non-returning members were approx. 50% full members, 15 Rail Pass, 24 associate members, and 16% family and student members. There was a Train Show coming up on Saturday August 27th and he would be seeking volunteers to man the booth.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted on a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by David Gelmini...

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott sent a report by email. There were 1738 page views on the Division website during June.

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek - Gary sent reports by email. He reports that we presently have 88 layouts on the schedule for the 2016 Pilgrimage – with 11 new layouts. The Pilgrimage committee continues to focus on the schedule and advertising deadlines and collection of funds for Pike Ads.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Randall sent a report by email. Randall plans to give John Travis his MRR award at the general meeting – as well as a Cars Master Builder certificate to Charlie Mason.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – Chuck sent a report by email. No letters were sent during June.

2016 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini, MMR Joe sent a report by email. Nothing new to report. However, Joe at the meeting informed the Board that the World’s Greatest Hobby will have a Train Show at the World Congress Center on January 7th and 8th 2017. This may impact our ticket sales but more importantly may impact some of our vendors who may not want to come to Atlanta in January and March 2017. Not great news for our Train Show. On a more positive note, Billy Car – the “Tool Man” is planning to move to Roswell and set up shop at the Blue Ox facility in Roswell. This should be a great addition for Atlanta and the Train Show. Suggestions for finding a “good book vendor” were made to Joe who agreed he would give additional effort. Help from others??

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin, MMR NTR.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR NTR.

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James sent a report by email. He made one Division name badge during June.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – David sent a report by email. He reported that there were no changes to the video library.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

Model Railroad & Division Help – Ovidiu Trifanescu – Nothing to report.

Train'in Camp - Perry Lamb - Perry submitted a report by email. The Weathering with PanPastels clinic that he and Peter held at Hobbytown USA in May was discussed at the National Train Show and Perry met with the owner of Panpastels at the Show and offered us additional material for future weathering clinics.

Outreach - Brian Sandberg - Brian sent a report by email. Brian and Jim Travis represented the Piedmont Division at Chatsworth Depot Days on June 11 and there was an excellent turnout. He has committed to an event at the Roswell Library in October

Old Business

2016 Action List - Peter Youngblood, MMR - Peter distributed a revised Action List for 2016. He noted that the RPM annual event had been officially cancelled because of continued negotiation problems with the Kennesaw Museum. The next clinic is an Achievement Program clinic to be held at the Kennesaw Hobbytown on August 20th. For information, Peter informed the Board that Perry no longer had affiliation with the Marietta church – where previous clinics had been held.

IRS Tax designation from 501 (c) 4 to 501 (c) 3 - Peter Youngblood. No update on our 501 (c) application. Peter and Perry plan to update the Board at the August meeting.

PayPal account for the Piedmont Division - Peter Youngblood A PayPal account has been set up. The system will be reviewed with Howard (Boy Scout registration) and Gary J. (Store Sales.)

Division Survey - Joe Sullivan. Joe circulated a copy of the proposed survey for Board input. There were a number of questions regarding need and value, but the general consensus was that this was an excellent and timely plan to once again attempt to obtain the input of Division members – some who appear to remain disgruntled with our monthly meetings and lack of other social alternatives. Members with comments were Peter Youngblood, Alan Mole, Walt Liles, Chris White, and Doug Alexander. Joe requested as much feedback as possible from the members regarding the actual format and timing of the proposed survey.

New Business

NMRA Board Meeting Annual Convention - Peter Youngblood, MMR – Peter reported on a number of items from the NMRA Board Meeting in Indianapolis.

- Kevin Udaly reported on the timing of the NMRA magazine going to online. This is a long term project because of many complex issues. It will remain a mailed magazine for the immediate future.
- The IRS has rejected the NMRA’s request to allow all Divisions to be under the NMRA 501(c) umbrella. The major problem is that the majority of Divisions are managed in completely different ways The NMRA has hired a law firm as a consultant to continue to attempt to work with the IRS. Peter was not very

hopeful of the eventual outcome and commented that the Piedmont's plans to proceed on their own were looking much better now.

- The NMRA was increasing the Magazine subscription by \$6 from \$22 -28. The total member subscription with the NMRA magazine would increase to \$72.
- The lengthy (113 page) document on retention and recruitment will not be printed because of high costs.
- Peter's own trifold, however, will be printed and distributed.
- There will be a new Superintendent Handbook that will be distributed to all regions and Divisions. A copy will also be available on the NMRA website.
- Kalmbach will be offering new videos and clinics to members at a 10% discount.
- LCC is progressing slowly, mainly due to delays by manufacturers.
- The next NMRA Board Meeting will again be in Atlanta (near the airport) in mid-February 2017 – the same venue as early 2016.
- The 2022 NMRA National Convention will be in Birmingham, England.
- Indianapolis had approx. 1100 attendees with 150-200 vendors at the National Train Show. The contest room was completely full!

World's Greatest Hobby Train Show - Royal Bruce Bruce asked if we should have our booth at this Show. Joe G. replied "Absolutely?"

Board Meeting Venue – Brian Sandford Brian stated that the acoustics in the present room where the Board meeting is held are unacceptable and recommended that we look at an alternative. Peter and Joe would review and discuss.

Any Other Business - There was no other business.

Meeting Adjournment David Gelmini proposed and Brian Sandford seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White, Director of Administration