

Meeting called to order at 6:08 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. He informed those present, if they had not already heard, of the most untimely passing of Gene Nichols, wife of one of the Piedmont Division founders, Dr. Joe Nichols, Sr., MMR. He also informed those present that we would attempt to complete the business of the Board as soon as practicable, so those that wished to could attend the visitation that evening.

Board Members Present (9): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, John Falk, Walt Liles, Perry Lamb, Norm Lundin, Brian Sandberg, , and Chris White.

Board members absent (5): Charlie Crawford, MMR, Joe Sullivan, David Gelmini, Joe Maiuro, and Alan Mole.

**Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (9)*:

Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin MMR, Gary Jarabek, Steve Funsten, Jim Hobbs, Tom Banks, Del Kittendorf, Paul Osman, and Martin Gulden.

**Officer and Director Reports**

**Administration - Chris White** The August 2016 Minutes were approved following a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by Walt Liles.

**Finance – Chris White** Joe sent the August financial reports by email. The August financial report was approved following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Chris White.

**Operations—Walt Liles** Walt sent a report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting.

**Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce** Royal sent a report by email. There were 86 members at the August meeting. The 12-month rolling average attendance is 101. The total Piedmont Division membership at the end of August had dropped to 395 – below 400 for the first time in a long time. Royal had recruited 2 new members at the recent Train Show. Royal also had sent a list by email and also circulated a list of 21 NMRA members who had not yet renewed their membership and again asked for assistance to attempt to follow up with these very recent NMRA members.

Peter Youngblood commented that a number of the 91 persons hosting their layouts in the upcoming Piedmont Pilgrimage were not members ..

**Committee Reports** These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted on a motion by Brian Sandberg and seconded by Perry Lamb. Peter Youngblood again reminded the Board that he will be stepping down from Chairman of the AV committee in 2017, and was looking for a member to volunteer for this position. (Accepted by Ovidiu Trifanescu at the Division Meeting.)

**Website - Scott Povlot** – Scott sent a report by email. There were 2415 page views on the Division website during August.

**Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek -** Gary sent reports by email. He reports that we presently have 91 layouts on the schedule for the 2016 Pilgrimage – with 11 new layouts. The Pilgrimage committee is now focused on finding additional volunteers for the operator assistance program (Bob Wheeler).

**Achievement Program – Randall Watson** Randall sent a report by email. No activity during the month.

**Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch** – Chuck sent a report by email. Four letters were sent during August.

**2017 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini, MMR** Nothing to report.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin, MMR** Howard noted that the next Merit Badge program will be held in Duluth on October 8<sup>th</sup> and is anticipating a great turnout of 36 scouts. He again emphasized that the Committee is still short of volunteers and again asked for additional assistance.

**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 August.

*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 brief report by email and indicated there would be little activity from now through the end of this year.

*Outreach - Brain Sandberg* - Brian sent a report by email. There would be a Division effort at the Roswell Main Library (close to downtown Roswell) on the weekend of October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The CountryRRoads operating group would be attending with many of their modules. The Piedmont Division would be there with their display.

## **Old Business**

*2016 Action List - Peter Youngblood, MMR* - Peter sent out an updated Action List for 2016. Peter reminded the Board that the Strategic Planning meeting for the Division was now scheduled for Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Innocents location – 10.00 am through 12.00 pm. The Division Christmas party was scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> – not the 8<sup>th</sup> as included in the Action List.

*IRS Tax designation from 501 (c) 4 to 501 (c) 3 - Peter Youngblood.* Alan Mole was not able to attend the meeting and Perry Lamb informed the Board that Barbara's work schedule may permit some activity in the mid-term. Alan and Perry would continue to come up with a schedule for approaching the IRS.

*Division Survey.* The survey had already been posted on the Division website and Scott Povlot had informed Peter that 43 members had already completed the survey. All members were encouraged to complete the survey as soon as possible.

## **New Business**

*2017 Elections – Peter Youngblood for Chuck Hoesch.* The 2017 elections were scheduled for November 8<sup>th</sup>. Chuck requests that a brief bio be submitted by all candidates by the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. This would allow inclusion in the website for information to those members voting by absentee ballot – as established in 2015. The candidates would be granted a maximum of 2 minutes at the November meeting to inform those present of their credentials and suitability for the position for which they were running.

*In Memory of Gene Nichols – David Gelmini* David had sent an email to all Board members and committee heads suggesting that the Division make a donation of \$500 to the Piedmont Hospital (the choice of Joe Nichols. Sr., MMR) in memory of Gene Nichols for the many years she had supported both the Division and the Region. Following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Jim Travis the Board approved this donation of \$500.

Peter Youngblood, although not in any way disagreeing with the motion in memory of Gene Nichols, reminded the Board of his concern regarding setting precedents. Many of our active members and their spouses were not exactly “young” any more, and he anticipated that there would be more candidates for consideration in the future. Peter suggested the establishment of a sub-committee to review the criteria for similar donations in the future – fully taking into account the contributions made to the Division by the member or his/her spouse.

*Any Other Business* - There was no other business.

*Meeting Adjournment* Jim Travis proposed and Norm Lundin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Chris White*, Director of Administration