

**PIEDMONT DIVISION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Meeting called to order at 6:05 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 (14): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Matt Coleman, Joe Sullivan, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, Perry Lamb, Norm Lundin, Bill Raymond, Brian Sandberg, David Gelmini, Joe Maiuro, Charlie Crawford MMR, John Falk and Chris White. (Bill Raymond resigning and John Falk appointed at this meeting.)

Board members absent (1): Alan Mole **Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (14)*: Bill Zawacki, MMR, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin MMR, Paul Osman, Gary Jarabek, Chuck Hoesch, Walt Liles, Tom Banks, Joe Gelmini MMR, Dottie Maiuro, Randall Watson, Steve Funsten, Scott Povlot, and Tyler Gelmini.

**Officer and Director Reports**

**Administration - Chris White** The February 2016 Minutes were approved following a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by Joe Maiuro.

**Finance – Joe Sullivan** Joe submitted the February financial reports by email. The February financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Norm Lundin and seconded by Perry Lamb. In addition the revised January financial report was approved following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Norm Lundin. Joe informed the board that he was close to finalizing the information for 2015 to present to Elmer Wilson, the Division's tax preparer and auditor.

**Operations—Matt Coleman** Matt submitted a February report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. Matt informed the Board that he and Peter Youngblood had made a presentation to 80 members of a Kiwanis Club in Cobb County on model railroading with a slide presentation and the new NMRA video.

**Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce** – Royal presented his February reports by email. There were 117 members and guests at the February meeting including 4 visitors. The 12-month rolling average attendance is 105. Royal also presented to the Board a list of members who had not yet renewed their NMRA membership. Peter Youngblood commented that there may be a potential problem at the NMRA HQ regarding membership renewals.

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

**Website - Scott Povlot** – Scott submitted a report by email. There were 2195 page views on the Division website during February and 3730 for the Train Show website.

**Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek** - Gary submitted a report by email. Gary summarized the Company Store inventory and also listed the advertising for the Monthly Division Meetings. His report also included upcoming ads in various publications, including the upcoming Division Train Show in March.

**Achievement Program – Randall Watson** There were no outstanding certificates during February.

**Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch** – Email report submitted. One letter was sent out during February.

**2016 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini** Joe submitted a detailed report on the upcoming Train Show. We had sold 92% of available vendor tables. 16,000 post cards had been sent out. Charlie Crawford had coordinated 7 display layouts from local groups. Walt Liles and his group had completed the raffle layout and looked for excellent results. Digitrax had once again generously contributed a Zephyr DCC system for the raffle layout. Scott Povlot

had updated the Train Show website. Gary Jarabek had completed all plans for post cards, print, internet and brochure advertising. Chris White had secured two new credit card machines for the Show – one for the Gate and one for the White Elephant Store. Howard Goodwin and Perry Lamb had improved their planning for our load-in and load out – especially load-out on Sunday. David Gelmini was still looking for additional volunteers for the Show.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin.** Nothing new to report for the month of February. Detailed upcoming plans are included in the January minutes.

**Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR** Peter had nothing to report this month.

**Name Badges & Photography - James Bando** – James made 3 Division name badge during February.

**Division Video Library - David Gelmini** – David reported that he had nothing new to report.

**Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon** – Nothing to report.

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

### **Old Business**

**IRS Tax designation from 501 (c) 4 to 501 (c) 3 - Peter Youngblood.** Peter updated the Board on progress at the NMRA Board meeting in Atlanta on this subject. Three Midwest Divisions had been selected as “guinea pigs” for this program. They had submitted applications but the timing of the IRS response was presently unknown by the NMRA. Peter recommended that we proceed with our own application and Alan Mole was making excellent progress with this preparation. There was again active participation by those present with comments and suggestions on how to proceed. Following a proposal by Matt Coleman and seconded by Perry Lamb the Board approved a motion to proceed with the application for a 501 (c) 3 immediately. The motion passed with two members opposed to the motion.

**Payments to the Division - Peter Youngblood** There was no activity on this issue but Scott Povlot was reviewing the options.

**2016 Action List - Peter Youngblood.** Peter had submitted a revised Action List for 2016 by email. He noted the Model Competition in April, the Boy Scout program in April, and the fundraising program for James and Sally Bando’s daughter.

**NMRA Board Meeting in Atlanta in February – Peter Youngblood** Peter summarized the NMRA Board meeting held in Atlanta in February. 10 Piedmont members attended the meeting. Good news on the membership front – with an increase to 18,200 NMRA members. The NMRA was in an excellent financial position with in excess of \$2 million in assets. The NMRA had hired a new Marketing Coordinator for the association – a lady from New Jersey who would be reviewing all aspects of the NMRA marketing program. A Retention and Recruitment Committee had been formed under the leadership of Jack Hamilton. A draft of a booklet for Division Superintendents had been prepared. This draft copy had 103 pages and the NMRA Board was asking for a shorter version. Peter Youngblood had presented his “tri-fold” brochure that had been well received by the NMRA Board. The Board visited the Delta museum and other facilities with the guidance of the Piedmont Division’s Delta pilot and NMRA Secretary John Stevens.

**Ronald McDonald House Program** After considerable efforts by Peter to obtain a committee head for this suggested outreach program, Peter recommended that this effort be considered again sometime in the future.

**Contract with Southern Museum Peter Youngblood** Peter summarized for the Board a meeting that was held with representatives of the Southern Museum to extend our agreement with them for another 5 years. The original agreement had included a provision that the Piedmont was obligated for two events. The Division’s main position was that operating a children’s layout was not the best way to spend members’ time in our outreach efforts. One

alternative is that the new module group County Railroad would operate their layout at the museum. The rates for admission were also discussed. Both groups will meet again to finalize the agreement.

### **New Business**

***Movie to include Model Railroad – Joe Gelmini*** Joe informed the Board that a movie company was looking for a model railroad to include in a Hulu movie. They would need a large railroad in a basement. They plan to start filming by the end of April.

***Railroad Prototype Modelers – NMRA Affiliation – Peter Youngblood*** Peter informed the Board that the local RPM group was seeking to be affiliated with the NMRA so that their annual event could be NMRA sanctioned. Peter had discussed with the NMRA and after these discussions was in agreement to approve the RPM request. Following a motion by Joe Sullivan and seconded by Perry Lamb the Board approved the NMRA affiliation for the local RPM group.

***Appointment of New Board Member – Peter Youngblood*** Bill Raymond had informed Peter that he would be moving to North Carolina in the near future and would be resigning from the Board immediately. (Bill Raymond was appointed by Peter in November to fill Matt Coleman’s open board position. Bill “won” in a coin toss with John Falk at that time.) Peter therefore announced that he had appointed John Falk as a Board member to fill the remainder of Matt Coleman’s term.

***Division Survey - Joe Sullivan*** Joe had wanted to recommend a Division survey – but because of the time would bring up at the April Board meeting.

***Meeting Adjournment*** Jim Travis proposed and Matt Coleman seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.57 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

***Chris White***, Director of Administration