

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 the Board that he had requested the A/C unit be turned off in attempt to improve the acoustics for the meeting and apologized if those attending felt a little warm.

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

Board members absent (3): Perry Lamb, Joe Maiuro, and Alan Mole.

**Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (14)*:

Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin MMR, Gary Jarabek, Chuck Hoesch, Steve Funsten, Scott Povlot, Jim Hobbs, Tyler Gelmini, Joe Gelmini MMR., Randall Watson, Mike Cumming, Tom Banks, Del Kittendorf, and Joe Nichols, Jr., MMR.

**Officer and Director Reports**

**Administration - Chris White** The July 2016 Minutes were approved following a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by Joe Sullivan. Peter pointed out an error in Brian Sandberg's name. (Editorial apologies to Brian.)

**Finance – Joe Sullivan** Joe sent the July financial reports by email. The July 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 indicated that July had been a relatively quiet month for model railroading activities.

**Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce** Royal sent a report by email. There were 89 members at the July meeting. The 12-month rolling average attendance is 102. The total Piedmont Division membership at the end of July was 402. There was a Train Show coming up on Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> 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 Joe Sullivan and seconded by Norm Lundin. Peter Youngblood informed 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.

**Website - Scott Povlot** – Scott sent a report by email. There were 2016 page views on the Division website during July.

**Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek** - Gary sent reports by email. He reports that we presently have 90 layouts on the schedule for the 2016 Pilgrimage – with 11 new layouts. These have now been scheduled and posted to the Division website. The Pilgrimage committee continues to focus on the advertising deadlines and collection of funds for Pike Ads (John Falk), and coordinating volunteers for the operator assistance program (Bob Wheeler).

**Achievement Program – Randall Watson** Randall sent a report by email. The Cars Master Builder certificate to Charlie Mason had not yet been received from National.

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

**2017 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini, MMR** Joe reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment to the Galleria for the 2017 Train Show had been paid.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin, MMR** The first merit badge program at the new location - Covenant Presbyterian Church of Marietta – was completed on July 30<sup>th</sup> with 14 scouts attending. Howard listed the reasons for this much lower participation than normal. The Merit Badge committee has decided to no longer use the switching layouts as part of their BSMB program – again for reasons detailed by Howard in his report. He also emphasized that the Committee was still short of volunteers and again asked for additional assistance. This shortage of volunteers could have a significant impact on the future of this program.

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

**Name Badges & Photography - James Bando** – James sent a report by email. He made three Division name badge during July and also sent Division Meeting photographs to Doug Alexander for the Timetable.

**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 but was out of the country for the Board Meeting. The next clinic will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> August at the Kennesaw Hobbytown with Peter Youngblood and Randall Watson discussing the Achievement Program

**Outreach - Brian Sandberg** - Brian sent a report by email.

## **Old Business**

**2016 Action List - Peter Youngblood, MMR** - Peter distributed a revised Action List for 2016. . The next clinic is an Achievement Program clinic to be held at the Kennesaw Hobbytown on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Peter also informed that Board that the Strategic Planning meeting for the Division was now scheduled for Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Holy Innocents location – 10.00 am through 12.00 pm.

**IRS Tax designation from 501 (c) 4 to 501 (c) 3 - Peter Youngblood.** This may now be delayed due to a time conflict for Barbara Lamb who was going to lead this effort. Peter Alan and Perry will update us at the September meeting on a revised plan for implementation.

**PayPal account for the Piedmont Division - Peter Youngblood** A PayPal account has been set up. The system is now being implemented for the BSMB program and Gary is real close with the Company Store.

**Division Survey - Joe Sullivan.** Joe circulated a 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft of the proposed survey for Board input. There was another lively discussion about the content of the survey and the need to hear from all Division members if possible. Joe has heard from a number of members that “We want more social stuff”. There were comments on implementing the survey on line. Joe was planning on having the survey available for the September and October meetings with a report back to the Board at the November meeting.

## **New Business**

**Request from Ken Preston Boy Scouts – Peter Youngblood and John Stevens** John Stevens had sent an email to the Board with an attached letter from Ken Preston – Advancement Chairman of the Ocmulgee District of the Boy Scouts. Their group was requesting the loan of two switching layouts. This request was approved by the Board following a proposal by David Gelmini and seconded by Norm Lundin.

**Boy Scout Merit Badge Program – Joe Gelmini** Joe suggested that the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program be held only twice a year instead of the current four. This may help to alleviate the current shortage in counselors. Howard replied that he would like to maintain four if at all possible. There was further discussion with input from David and Tyler Gelmini regarding the program as well as the decision to eliminate the switching layouts. It was suggested that the switching layouts are probably the main attraction of the program.

**Raffle of Digitrax Zephyr Donation – John Falk** John Suggested that a separate raffle be held at the Train Show for the donated Zephyr and thought we could raise more funds than the present auction system at a Division meeting. Following some discussion from the Train Show Committee and the Pilgrimage Chairman it was generally considered that the present auction of the Zephyr would continue for the time being – conducted by Howard Goodwin in either October or November. (Ed note: These funds help offset the cost of the Pilgrimage Booklet)

**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 6:57 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Chris White**, Director of Administration