

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
May 8, 2012**

Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m., Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA by Charlie Crawford, MMR, Superintendent.

Board Members Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet* (13): Bob McIntyre, Rick Coble, Charlie Crawford, MMR, Howard Goodwin, Paul Rankin, I.D. Jackson, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Gary Jarabek, David Gelmini, Mike Deaton, Walt Liles, Peter Youngblood, MMR, Scott Chatfield

Absent (1): Joe Sullivan

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet* (17): Paul Voelker, Perry Lamb, Del Kittendorf, Diane Kittendorf, Doug Alexander, Joe Nichols, Sr., MMR, Ed Laity, Joe Surowiec, Tom Banks, Joe Gelmini, Kevin Bush, Bob Wood, Bill Smith, Bill Ello, Jim Brown, Stephen Leydon, Scott Povlot

Officer and Director Reports

Administration—Rick Coble

The 2011 election ballots have been shredded.

Paul Rankin made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2012 Board of Directors meeting. Seconded by Peter Youngblood, MMR. Motion approved.

Finance—I.D. Jackson

Treasurer Jackson's submitted a quarterly finance report : Highlights include:

- Division cash position.
- Transfer of money to the building fund.
- Advancing money to the Peachtree Express committee.
- Purchase of credit card machine.

Treasurer Jackson brought four potential motions to the board. After discussion, two were deemed unnecessary. Treasure Jackson made the following motions:

May 8, 2012

The Peachtree Express Convention Chair is authorized to sign contracts necessary for the Piedmont Division activities at the 2013 NMRA National Convention.

Seconded by Charlie Crawford, MMR. Motion passed.

The Piedmont Division Finance Director is authorized to write checks related to the Piedmont Division activities at the 2013 NMRA National Convention.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
May 8, 2012**

Operations—Howard Goodwin

Greetings all, once again I am shaken to the roots of reality by the fast approaching deadlines of Departmental reports! While there is nothing earth shattering to report at this time, I can say all programs are progressing. I still do not have any further information on a date for the Ops Jam '12 but will be shooting for a time in the third quarter. Work is underway to prepare the Operations for 2013 and I will be calling upon members to come forward for clinics and home layouts. This will be most interesting in the year of our National Convention. I would like to have this in place by year's end. One of the exciting things are many new layouts coming available for this year's Pilgrimage including the new Susquehanna Valley & Southern of Bob McIntyre an Inaugural member of the Pilgrimage tour and perennial favorite. The next regular auction will be on August 25th at the church in Marietta, if approved by the BOD. The Special Auction slated for May 19th has gotten the attention of a good many folks and I am hopeful for a record turn out.

Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin

Monthly report: I've attached a bare-bones spreadsheet showing a summary of the data captured by my attendance rosters since January. Comparing the attendees I counted against those who signed the roster, we have a better than 95% compliance. A few notes are in order. First, I took the distance from the post office of the home zip code to the meeting venue to approximate the distance traveled. Second, I arbitrarily figured that anyone with fewer than 6 attendances in the past year is a newcomer, because most regulars showed 10 - 12 meetings attended in the past year, and most newcomers showed 0 - 3 meetings attended.

The first thing to notice is that more people attend the Tucker meetings, and people drive farther to get to the Tucker meetings. The second thing to notice is that fewer members attended the Marietta meetings, but more newcomers came to Marietta. Those are data points, but I feel that we need to discuss this further at the BOD meeting, and need to add the data from May and June to get a better idea of what the data means.

Paul recommended that prior to the 2013 National Convention is not the time to have dual meeting sites. He also recommended that the division add a small meeting each month without a BOD meeting.

Gary Jarabek recommended waiting for the full six months of data before making a decision. That would be in June.

Peter Youngblood, MMR said that we need twelve months to collect data before making a decision.

Committee Reports

Member Aid – Bob McIntyre

I received a request from Steve Funsten who owns Blue Ox Trains. I was asked by a seller if he could find someone who would be interested in purchasing a high end No, 1 Scale set of cars. I was asked if I knew someone and I replied that I did not. So I was not much help here. I have started working with Blue Ox Trains in Roswell and have found him to be very responsive and helpful. He is especially good on mail and specialty orders.

The Gold Spike certificate recently earned by Joe Surowiec was not ready for the meeting.

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May 8, 2012**

Peachtree Express— Bob McIntyre

Our next meeting is on May 16th at the First Presbyterian Church in Marietta. Please refer to the previous meeting minutes for details. Key items are we are waiting on a quote from Horizon for the Convention Cars. We have a quote from Atlas. A decision will need to be made at the next meeting. We have an internal team that is going to solicit donations from major companies in the Atlanta Area that are not 100% railroad related. They will also be working on obtaining sponsorships from major model railroad companies. The money will be used to offset the cost of the convention/banquet and for the registration bag. At this time, the NMRA will generate donation letters as needed, with each letter included with an acknowledgement of a donation. We are investigating the use of credit cards. We need to have a program in place by Grand Rapids because we are running the Silent Auction. The Model Railroad Tours are for the most part set due to the work of the team headed by Gary Jarabek. We have incorporated a numbering scheme that has been used in the past. The Sidetracks tours might possibly use the assistance of the bus companies to use already set tours. Clinics are proceeding with the direction of Howard Goodwin. Advertising is set. We are utilizing "free" advertising which includes Regional NMRA and the SIG publications.

Short term loans to assist the convention committee with cash flow issues are not required at this time but will be brought before the BOD as needed.

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Piedmont Pilgrimage – Bob McIntyre

Gary Jarabek has begun to send out requests to layout owners to invite them to be on the tour. I have commitments for advertising for Trainmaster Models and Riverdale Station. I will continue to work on others. We need a coordinated advertising sales campaign between the Pilgrimage and the Timetable. Since I have been making the sales call for years I have the contacts. Doug Alexander has expressed interest in having advertisers in the Timetable. I think having two different people calling on the same prospects could make thing confusing.

Achievement Program – Bob McIntyre

I am waiting on the Volunteer and Chief Dispatcher Certificates from Bill Raymond. He as requested that we hold them until June when he will back in town. I have been asked to evaluate Dan Rever's layout for AP Certificates. I will be visiting him the week on the Piedmont meeting.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
May 8, 2012**

Timetable - Doug Alexander

I am relieved to report that, thanks in large part to the herculean assistance of Bob Wood, 434 copies of the 2nd Quarter Timetable went in the mail on Friday, May 4, and, the good Lord willing, will shortly be appearing in a mailbox near you.

All were sent in No. 12 envelopes, and distribution broke down this way:

- Individuals 329
- New Members 23
- Families 29
- "Lost" 17
- Comps 36
- Three members received their issues via email.
- The next issue WILL be in the mail by July 1.

Website - Scott Povlot

We now have a new website based on the Drupal content management system. This will make it easier to update the website. Right now I have provided user access to Rick Coble, Gary Jarabek and Louie Gomes. If someone else wants access, please let me know.

April 2012 6,953 Total page requests.

Advertising and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek

Advertising:

Monthly Meetings

NMRA submitted through August 2012 Issue

Railroad Model Craftsman submitted through August 2012 Issue.

Trains.com submitted through July 2012

The June meeting notices reflects the Marietta location. Trains.com will be submitted after June meeting.

Company Store:

There are only med and XL of old style short sleeve polo shirts left to sell. These will be sold at \$28.00.

Putty polo shirts only 2XL remain at the price of \$33.00.

Blue polo shirts are in stock. Complete size range (med to 3XL).

Med to 2XL available in long sleeve denim shirts. .

Caps are also in stock.

Mugs will be distributed to new NMRA members.

Aprons

I will keep a few in stock for future requests.

Good and Welfare –Joe Gelmini

Nothing new to report for Good & Welfare.

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
May 8, 2012**

Model Train Show (2012) –Joe Gelmini

Nothing new on the 2012 train show, but on a related note I have sent NTS Manager Tom Draper a list of local clubs/modular groups and vendors that have expressed interest in inclusion in the NTS for 2013. They should receive an information package from Draper in May or June of this year.

Two items the BOD should address at this meeting:

- A decision on participation at "Parents Palooza" November 10-11 2012. See Old Business for additional information.
- A decision on a credit card system for use in the Silent Auction at Grand Rapids. See New Business for additional information.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens

1. We had 29 scouts attend the latest Scout Program held in April. That brings the total for scouts earning the merit badge through a Piedmont Division program to 578. Two more counselors surpassed the 500 scout mark and will receive their certificates at the next Duluth program. We had an Eagle Scout in this last program who just earned his 120th merit badge.
2. The scout who recently earned the Railroading Merit Badge through the Duluth program that wants to do his Eagle Scout Project at the SRM has decided on a project and is working on submitting his paperwork.
3. The next program as the SRM will be held on September 22.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) - Bill Ello

Bill Ello reported:

I have developed a school calendar for all the counties we will serve for the upcoming BSA Clinics and have determined our "best" dates are August 25 and Feb 9. These dates ensure the boys are in school and available without Parental / Vacation / Long Weekend Conflicts. We should be able to get good staff participation also.

DUE TO PHYSICAL ROOM CONSTRAINTS AT THE MUSEUM WE MUST LIMIT THE SIZE OF THE CLINIC TO 24 (TWENTY FOUR SCOUTS). TO INSURE MONETARY BREAK EVEN WE ARE RAISING THE PARTICIPATING UNIT ADULT FEE TO \$6.00 (SIX DOLLARS).

This season we will serve the following counties:

Cherokee
Cobb
Paulding
Pickens

This Aug we will add the follow to the list:

Carroll
Douglas (Calendar not available as of list development)
Haralson

**PIEDMONT DIVISION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING REPORT
May 8, 2012**

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) - (cont.)

With these additions we are servicing the "Old Service Area 3" of the Atlanta BSA Council. This covers the MAJORITY of the Physical Footprint of the Atlanta Council

With the winter session we should include Fulton County BSA Districts and in effect will extend to the Full West Metro Area.

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

The Piedmont Division's A/V Committee will honor a request from Smokey Mountain Division Superintendent Larry Burkholder, to bring the three PD projectors and the A/V Committee's single laptop to the SER Convention in Gatlinburg, TN, June 1-3. Larry has subsequently requested via SER President Joe Gelmini, that we bring the other three PD laptops, one currently assigned to PD Treasurer, I.D. Jackson, the two others to Bill Zawacki, MMR, for auction use. All will be used in the clinic rooms. We will also help Larry set up the equipment. Transportation of the equipment will be arranged after the May 19th auction.

Name Badges - James Bando

James reports that no badges were created since the April meeting.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini

The new video collection is in and I am getting it labeled for the library. They were a few duplicates but most of the videos were ones we did not own. All the videos are in great shape (most still in plastic) so the duplicating process should be smooth. There are a few DVDs that I will have for the library on Tuesday.

Thanks to Howard for this great find.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon

No report.

Volunteer Coordinator - Walt Liles

No report.

Old Business

Operations Jamboree (Howard Goodwin)

Howard Goodwin is in the process of planning Operations Jamboree for 2012. Milt Burge will assist with this program. Dates are to be determined.

A/P Class - Peter Youngblood, MMR

The next AP class will be held August 25, 2012 at HobbyTown USA in Kennesaw. An agenda will be established well prior to the event.

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Parents Palooza (Joe Gelmini)

The division will not participate in ParentsPalooza, based on a question of costs and responsibilities to participate in the show.

Storage Unit - I.D. Jackson

Rental on the storage unit near the Elk's Lodge in Tucker increased on April 1. After a discussion concerning moving the Kid's Layout to the storage building at the SERM and approaching deadline to vacate the unit, it was decided to pay May rent. Charlie Crawford will review space at the SERM to see if the Kid's layout may be stored in the storage building.

PIEDMONT DIVISION BOD MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2012

Dual Meeting Locations - Charlie Crawford, MMR

Paul Rankin presented a report showing attendance through the first five months of the dual location trial period. Next month, Paul will report on attendance during the full trial dual location period. Charlie Crawford proposed a special Board of Director's meeting after the June meeting to decide future meeting location plans.

If required, Gary Jarabek will change meeting announcements on our website and trains.com as well as in NMRA magazine, so a decision must be made as quickly as possible.

New Business

Credit Card System (Bill Zawacki, MMR) Bill Zawacki proposed the purchase of a Credit Card machine for the division to be used at Auctions, White Elephant sales store, along with the Silent Auction in Grand Rapids.

Howard Goodwin made a motion for the purchase of the credit card system. Seconded by Peter Youngblood. Motion approved.

The Meeting Adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Coble, Director of Administration