

PIEDMONT DIVISION, BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

10th February 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter welcomed to the meeting at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church.

Board Members Present (13): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Matt Coleman, Joe Sullivan, Walt Liles, Norman Lundin, Chuck Hoesch, Perry Lamb, Alan Mole, Joe Nichols Jr., MMR, Joe Maiuro, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, and Charlie Crawford, MMR.

Board members absent (1): Chris White

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (20)*:

Del and Diane Kittendorf, James and Sally Bando, Joe Gelmini, MMR, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Steve Funsten, Dottie Maiuro, Rick Coble, Gary Jarabek, Howard Goodwin, Scott Povlot, Martin Guldner, Steve Austin, Mike Deaton, John Stevens, Thomas Roskelly, David Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, and Kevin Bush.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White The January 2015 Minutes were approved following a motion by Chuck Hoesch and seconded by Jim Travis.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe submitted the financial report by email for January 2015. Joe added a third spreadsheet to the financial report, a statement income and expense for the current year. The January financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Perry Lamb and seconded by Joe Maiuro.

Joe also informed the board that the Q4 2014 Financial Report published in the Timetable contains errors. Joe will contact Editor Doug Alexander.

Operations—Walt Liles Walt submitted the January report by email. Walt reviewed January activities, including Train N' Camp, the Boy Scouts Merit badge clinic, and "Trains, Trains, Trains." Walt reported that the Kid's Operating Layout is in need of repairs and updating as it is becoming a hazard to our young operators. Walt also spoke with the Southern Museum's executive director about storing the layout at the museum. Walt spoke with Elks Club management about the move. We are welcome back and the Elks have offered the lodge for other events and fundraisers.

Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce – Royal presented his first personnel/membership report. January attendance at the Elks Lodge was 96. The division staffed the membership booth at the Atlanta Model Train and Railroadiana show January 17 and Trains, Trains, Trains at the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History January 24. Royal sold three memberships at the museum event.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. Some reports had not been received.

Timetable - Doug Alexander – Nothing to report. First quarter 2015 Timetable was published online early February 10. Peter Youngblood reported that he would contact Doug concerning the timeliness of the Timetable as well as errors in the current edition.

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott submitted a report by email. 791 visits to the Division webpage in January with 2279 page views. 358 Division monthly emails sent out via Mail Chimp, with 185 opened (52%). The Peachtree Express website, nmra2013.org is expiring this month. Scott will not renew it and the website will no longer be active.

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek - Gary submitted a report by email. Participants in the 2014 Pilgrimage will be recognized at the general membership meeting. Gary summarized the Company Store inventory and also listed the advertising for the Monthly Division Meetings.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Randall submitted a report by email. There are two certificates to be awarded at the general meeting and an additional four certificates outstanding at National.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – Email report submitted. No letters were sent during January.

2015 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini Joe submitted a report by email. The show is at 95% vendor tables sold/committed and Joe is expecting to sell out. Volunteers will be solicited at the general meeting. The advertising budget has been reduced by cutting out ads from the AJC, which have gotten very expensive. Past survey results indicate a poor ROI from ads in the AJC.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens – The next Duluth program will be held April 25th.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin – Nothing to report.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR Peter submitted a report by email. On January 26, the A-V Committee and Director of Operations, Walt Liles, met with Andre Parker, the Holy Innocents' Church A-V technician. All Piedmont Division requirements were reviewed and met satisfactorily. By prior agreement, all things A-V with the exception of Norman Lundin's HD video camera & light package are provided, set up and maintained by the church. The Piedmont Division will use its own laptops.

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James submitted a report by email. James prepared one new Division badges.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – Nothing to report.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

Train N' Camp - Perry Lamb - Perry submitted a report by email. The first quarter Training Camp was held at Hobbytown USA in Kennesaw January 31. There were 15 students for the PanPastels class. The next Train N' Camp will be held in May.

Member Aid – Ovidiu Trifanescu – Nothing to report.

Peter Youngblood led a discussion about the member aid position and how it may better serve division members. Presently, the position gets very few requests for assistance. After discussion, Peter asked that ideas be emailed to him prior to the March meeting.

Old Business

Action List - Peter Youngblood - Peter reviewed the February Action List. There are several events/dates not yet confirmed which we should resolve as soon as possible.

Wounded Warrior Project – Peter Youngblood. Peter provided an update on the outreach program. He addressed public negative and false statements about the Wounded Warrior Project, enabling the program to go forward. Jim Travis will be the team leader for the program.

Jim Travis contacted the Veterans Administration about starting a similar program. After discussion with VA staff, Jim determined that the program would not be a good fit.

Ronald McDonald House Charities – Peter Youngblood. Due to the types of services provided by RMHC, they are unable to accept a layout. The program may focus on after dinner show-and-tell presentations on the subject of model railroading – possibly including a small display. At this time, Peter has not found a team leader to head up this program. If you would like to lead this program please contact Peter immediately.

The Shepherd Center – Peter Youngblood Joe Nichols, Jr. and Perry Lamb will work with the Shepherd Center to go forward with this program. Joe will follow up with Peter's contact at The Shepherd Center.

Clinic DVD – Scott Povlot The Peachtree Express website, nmra2013.org, expires this month and will not be renewed. Scott will move convention clinics to the division website.

Division Elections – Alan Mole Alan informed the Board at the November 2014 BOD meeting that he was planning to submit a proposal to change the Division By-Laws regarding the election of Officers and Board members – and also any issue requiring a membership vote – such as By-Law changes. His major concern was that members of the Division who were unable to get to the November meeting were being disenfranchised – and that all members should have the ability to vote in annual elections.

After considerable discussion at the January meeting, Alan updated the proposed By-Laws change document and emailed the document to the Board prior to the February meeting. The updated document offers mail-in (absentee) ballots for members unable to vote in person.

After considerable discussion concerning the current system, advantages and disadvantages of allowing mail-in voting, and the mechanics of implementing mail-in voting, Peter Youngblood took a straw poll. Because there was sufficient interest among meeting attendees, Peter asked Alan to conduct a poll of the membership. Alan will poll members electronically and report the results to the Board. Peter asked that comments be sent to Alan before the March meeting.

New Business

Proposed Piedmont Division Train Shirt volunteer shirts–Peter Youngblood & Sally Bando Peter and Sally proposed new volunteer shirts for the train show. The shirts would identify show volunteers and include a message such as "Ask Me About Model Railroading". Sally suggested vests as an alternative. A lower number of vests would be required as they could be shared. Joe Gelmini suggested oversized buttons. Sally will research buttons.

2016 Raffle Layout - Walt Liles. Walt suggested donating the profit from the 2016 Raffle Layout to the Wounded Warriors Project. Publicity could potentially increase ticket sales and provide good exposure for the Division.

Joe Sullivan proposed and Joe Maiuro seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 7:00p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Coble, on behalf of
Chris White, Director of Administration