

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter welcomed all the officers, board members, committee heads and other Division members to the meeting and informed those present that it would again be a very busy evening – including the 2016 Elections with candidate presentations, and awards for the Achievement Program and October model contest. Peter also took the opportunity to wish all attending and their families all the very best for the upcoming Thanksgiving Season celebration.

Peter also reminded the Board that it was Veterans Day on Wednesday and gave a very special thanks to all Piedmont Division veterans for their service to their country. (Chris White also reported that it was Remembrance Day in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth – also celebrating the service of veterans. In the UK red poppies are sold and proudly worn throughout the country.)

Board Members Present (14): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Matt Coleman, Chuck Hoesch, Joe Sullivan, Joe Nichols Jr., MMR, Walt Liles, Royal Bruce, Joe Maiuro, Jim Travis, Alan Mole, Perry Lamb, Charlie Crawford, MMR, Norm Lundin and Chris White.

Board members absent (0): **Quorum Present**

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (24):*

Bill Zawacki, MMR, Dottie Maiuro, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, MMR, James Bando, Sally Bando, Gary Jarabek, Randall Watson, Paul Voelker, Tom Banks, Scott Povlot, Martin Gulden, Del Kittendorf, David Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, Al Churella, Ann Lundin, John Falk, Mike Cummings, Milton Burge, Bill Smith, Joe Gelmini, Tom Brennonson, and Steve Funsten.

Please note: Members of the Election Committee were present but working on the election process.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White The October 2015 Minutes were approved following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Jim Travis. Joe Sullivan pointed out that Alan Mole was listed twice under Board Members present. Peter Youngblood pointed out that we approved the 2016 Budget in October contingent on Joe Sullivan completing two or three changes based on expected discussions with Committee Heads. Joe informed the Board that this was not yet completed, so Peter Youngblood stated that the previously approved Budget would be revisited for final Board approval at the January Board meeting.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe submitted the October financial report by email. The October financial report was approved by the Board following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Jim Travis.

Operations—Walt Liles Walt submitted the October report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. Walt emphasized to the Board that we were again asking for donations for Toys for Tots at the Christmas meeting in December. He also asked all members to assist Dottie Maiuro in preparing for the Christmas party

Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce – Royal presented his October report by email. October attendance at our new venue was 109 including one visitor. The Piedmont Division, at latest count, had 420 NMRA members. We signed up 4 new members in October. There was some discussion about the number of veterans signed up for the Division during 2015. Royal, Sally Bando, and Peter would come up with a firm number.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted on a motion by Joe Nichols, Jr., and seconded by Alan Mole.

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott submitted a report by email. There were 2257 page views and 343 total visits on the Division website during October. Scott also reported on the Pilgrimage website activity where we had 30,344 page views and 1980 unique visitors during October. This surely indicates the value of the Pilgrimage website in attracting visitors to the various Open House layouts. (Ed note: Great job Scott Gary and Rick.)

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. Attendance at this year's Pilgrimage was going well with similar numbers as last year for the first three weeks. We now have only 77 layouts for this year, the lowest since 2011. There have been many visitors from outside the North Georgia area.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Two certificates for Al Churella have been received and will be presented to him at the Division meeting. Randall is now waiting to receive 13 outstanding certificates from National. He informed the General Meeting that

8 of these are for Tom Brennison and when received from National, Tom will be yet another Piedmont Division MMR. (Ed. Note: Bob McIntyre would be so proud.)

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – Email report submitted. Four letters were sent during October.

2016 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini Joe submitted an email report. Vendor mailings were completed on 22nd October. We are currently committed for 16% of vendor tables.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) –Howard Goodwin. Nothing to report this month.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR Nothing to report.

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James made 3 Division name badges during October and also sent a number of photographs to Doug Alexander – Timetable Editor.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – David reported making excellent progress on converting old VHS tapes to DVD format with appropriate labeling.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

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

Old Business

Action List - Peter Youngblood - Peter had emailed the November Action List – the last list for 2015. He plans to prepare and distribute a 2016 Action List in the near future but informed the Board of a conflict on Saturday January 23rd which will be a SER quarterly meeting conflicting with a proposed Train In camp scheduled for that day. Perry Lamb and Peter were working on an alternative clinic for that day.

New Business

IRS Tax designation from 501 (c) 4 to 501 (c) 3 - Peter Youngblood and Alan Mole. Peter informed the Board that to his recollection the NMRA had been more than 2 years “testing” a Division for 501 (c) 3 status with little if any progress. He therefore recommended that the Division work on this issue on our own and had asked Alan Mole to head up this review. There was an excellent discussion of all the issues with participation by Royal Bruce, Joe Gelmini, Del Kittendorf, James Bando, and Chris White. There are many sides to this complex issue – the major one being the approval of the IRS and the preparation of appropriate paperwork. Alan Mole would continue with his review.

Payments to the Division - Peter Youngblood Peter and Joe Sullivan had agreed that the Division would form a small sub-committee to review the establishment of a Pay Pal account (or accounts) to permit easier transactions from the public to the Division – for Howard Goodwin (Boy Scouts) and Gary Jarabek (Division clothing). This may also be an alternative to credit card machines for the Train Show Gate and the Train Show White Elephant Store. (Ed. Note: The Train Show Treasurer would recommend that we keep the Division and Train Show accounts separate. Comingling of funds would be difficult to track and record.) David Gelmini offered to serve on this committee.

Meeting Adjournment Alan Mole proposed and Jim Travis seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.43 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White, Director of Administration