

Meeting called to order at 6:02 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.

Board Members Present (10): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Matt Coleman, Joe Sullivan, Walt Liles, Chuck Hoesch, Joe Maiuro, Charlie Crawford, MMR, Norm Lundin, Joe Nichols, Jr., MMR, and Royal Bruce.

Board members absent (4): Jim Travis, Alan Mole, Perry Lamb, and Chris White.

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present as taken from the sign-in sheet (15): Bill Zawacki, MMR, Dottie Maiuro, Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin, MMR, Randall Watson, Joe Gelmini, David Gelmini, Tyler Gelmini, Steve Funsten, I.D. Jackson, James Bando, Sally Bando, Gary Jarabek, Mike Deaton, and Scott Povlot.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White - The July 2015 Minutes were approved following a motion by Joe Maiuro and seconded by Walt Liles. Joe Sullivan noted that The *Southeastern Railway Museum* was misspelled in the New Business/Southern Railroad Museum layout section.

Finance – Joe Sullivan - Joe submitted the July 2015 financial report by email. The report was approved by the Board following a motion by Walt Liles and seconded by Chuck Hoesch. Joe reported the following to the board: (1) the changing of our bank accounts from Bank of America to BB&T is still in progress and should be completed by the end of September 2015, (2) the money received from July's auction of the Digitrax system is reflected as Piedmont Pilgrimage income, and (3) the surplus from Connie McIntyre's contribution has been placed in the reserve fund. In response to inquiries from Chuck Hoesch, Joe reported that IRS filings should be done this week and all outstanding taxes have been taken care of.

Operations - Walt Liles - Walt submitted his July report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. Railroad Rendezvous, held at the Southern Museum, was very successful. Walt also reported that Dr. Paul Schenk had a very successful open house.

Personnel - Royal Bruce - Royal submitted his July report by email. July meeting attendance was 106. Two memberships were sold at the Norcross train show. He also reported that members have given him good ideas to provide additional information in his reports.

Committee Reports Reports were emailed to all Board members. Committee reports were accepted following a motion by Joe Nichols, Jr. and seconded by Joe Sullivan.

Website - *Scott Povlot* – Scott submitted a report by email. There were 1807 page views on the Division website during June.

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - *Gary Jarabek* - Email report submitted. Gary summarized the Company Store inventory and also listed the advertising for the Monthly Division Meetings. For the Pilgrimage, the schedule has been completed and the layouts are posted to the Pilgrimage website. Pike ads will be completed this month. Commercial advertising art work and payment is due by August 15 from vendors. The booklet is being compiled. A new feature has been added to the website. You can now view the layout photos individually by clicking on the photo scroll.

Achievement Program – *Randall Watson* – *Email* report submitted. Three certificates are outstanding from National.

Timetable - *Doug Alexander* - No report. Peter reported that the published date of the August layout open house, Sunday August 16, is incorrect. The open house will take place Saturday August 15.

Good and Welfare – *Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch* – Email report submitted. Two letters were sent during July.

2016 Model Train Show – *Joe Gelmini* - Joe reported that vendor notices are being sent and the first set of show flyers have been printed and were used at the August 8 train show. The Galleria has raised its rental fee by \$1,000. Joe is considering a \$5 increase in the table rental fee to cover the show's increased costs.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – *Howard Goodwin* - Howard reported that the Kennesaw July 25 class was very successful, with 26 scouts earning their merit badge. The next class for Duluth is scheduled for September 26th and is already full, with a waiting list. Additional volunteers and counselors are still needed. He has also reminded counselors to keep their required BSA Youth Protection Training certification current.

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

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James submitted a report by email. He made 29 name tags for the Boy Scout Merit Badge program and 4 Piedmont Division badges. He sent July meeting photos to Doug Alexander. Doug has May, June, and July meeting photos. James also reported more good news about his daughter Cheryl. She has been released from the hospital and will be home with her twins for their first day of school.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – Nothing to report.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

Train N' Camp - Perry Lamb. Peter reminded everyone of the Train N' Camp session to be held Saturday August 15.

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

Old Business

Action List - Peter Youngblood - Peter reviewed the August Action List.

Wounded Warrior Project – Jim Travis - Jim contacted the local office and sent a proposal. Jim's contact is interested and will get in touch with Jim and let him know if the organization is interested in pursuing this.

The Shepherd Center – Joe Nichols, Jr. and Perry Lamb - Joe reported that he has discussed our proposal with another department at Shepherd. Someone will get in touch with him.

Auction or “other alternative event” during 2015 – Walt Liles - Walt informed the Board that he was actively working on a proposal for an Auction of some type later in the year.

New Business

SER Military/Veterans Memberships - Peter Youngblood - To advertise the SER program to purchase first time NMRA memberships for active military personnel and veterans, Peter produced a one page flyer to be displayed at local hobby shops. Volunteers will take the flyers to the shops.

Adairsville Depot - Charlie Crawford - Charlie was contact by Adairsville depot staff about Piedmont Division participation in a local event, to be held in October. Charlie said that due to short notice, the division would not be able to participate this year, perhaps in 2016. Charlie was also asked about assisting with the upgrade of a display in the depot. Charlie will put together a summary of the request and send it to the BOD.

Elections - Chuck Hoesch - Chuck will make an elections announcement and a call for candidates at the general meeting.

Meeting Adjournment - Joe Sullivan proposed a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded and confirmed by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Coble
On behalf of Chris White, Director of Administration