

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m., Old Hickory House, Tucker, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter reminded all those present that it was Veteran's Day today, and wished to recognize all those present that were veterans and to thank all of them on our behalf for their service. He also recognized all those that were active in the services defending our freedom.

Board Members Present (14): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Gary Jarabek, Chris White, Joe Sullivan, Walt Liles, Norman Lundin, Chuck Hoesch, Scott Chatfield, Perry Lamb, David Gelmini, Alan Mole, Paul Rankin, Joe Nichols Jr., MMR, and Charlie Crawford, MMR.

Board members absent (0): None

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (31)*:

Randall Watson, Del and Diane Kittendorf, James and Sally Bando, Joe Gelmini, MMR, Bill Zawacki, MMR, Dr. Joe Nichols Sr., MMR, Steve Funsten, Bob Hess, Tom Banks, Mike Deaton, Doug Alexander, Lenny Polinsky, Victor Pitrowski, Tyler Gelmini, Jim Travis, Joe and Dottie Maiuro, Ovidiu Trifanescu, Joe Surowiec, Ed Laity, Martin Guldner, Rick Coble, Royal Bruce, John Stevens, Kevin Bush, Linda Bush, Mike Fleming, Ann Lundin and Scott Povlot.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White.

The October 2014 Minutes were approved following a motion by Gary Jarabek and seconded by Perry Lamb.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe submitted a financial report by email for October 2014. Joe indicated that there was a minor error in the report and requested approval which would include a correction of this minor error. There were no questions or comments on Joe's report. The October financial report with the amendment was approved by the Board following a motion by Alan Mole and seconded by Walt Liles.

Joe Sullivan also presented a Final 2015 Budget. Joe informed the Board that the Finance Committee had reviewed the proposed budget line item by line item. Because of the preliminary projected deficit of approximately \$6000 for 2015, the Committee recommended that some of the major projects that had been proposed and that were not "recurring expenditures" would not be included in the budget and would be considered by the Board as they came up in 2015. The Committee also reduced the projected expenses for the 2015 Pilgrimage and the requested amounts for the Video and Book Libraries. Again these would be reconsidered in 2015 and could be increased depending on the results of the Train Show in March. The Final 2015 Budget included a total deficit of approx. \$2000.

Chris White distributed a summary of the more recent Train Show results emphasizing the impact of gate sales at the Train Show, which had ranged between \$19000 and \$29,000 with relatively fixed expenditures for the Show. He suggested that the 2015 Train Show Budget was not "conservative" but was dependent on ticket sales. Joe Sullivan calculated that the Train Show Budget had an upside of \$4-5000 and a downside of \$6000.

Following a proposal by Paul Rankin and seconded by Peter Youngblood the 2015 Budget was approved by the Board.

Operations—Walt Liles Walt had submitted his October report by email. Walt reviewed the October activities and then reviewed the schedule for the next few months. Charlie Crawford asked how the planning for clinics and open houses were progressing for 2015 and Walt responded that all was in order, but was always looking for clinician volunteers.

Personnel/Membership - Paul Rankin – Paul submitted an email report. We had attendees for the October meeting, maintaining our 12-month rolling average at 103 attendees. Paul and volunteers will have the membership booth at the Greenberg Show at the Galleria on November 15 and 16.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. There were no additional comments submitted by Committee Heads. Peter Youngblood requested clarification about the emailing of Piedmont Division e-blasts and the identification of the sender etc. Scott Povlot explained the situation.

Timetable - Doug Alexander – Nothing to report.

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott submitted an email report. 593 “unique” visitors to the Division webpage in October with 3017 “page views”. 470 Division monthly emails sent out via Mail Chimp, with only 215 opened (48%). There were also 2144 unique visitors to the Pilgrimage website with 25,276 page views.

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek - Gary submitted an emailed report. The Pilgrimage is underway with 2211 visitors attending 33 layouts for an average attendance of 61 persons. Gary summarized the Company Store inventory and also listed the advertising for the Monthly Division Meetings and the Pilgrimage.

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Emailed report submitted. Golden Spike Award to Ann Lundin. The Fall Division AP contest was very well subscribed with more entries than usual. Randall gave out the October AP contest awards at the Division Meeting. Brian Glock was the winner of the Best in Show plaque and was also the first Division member to receive the Bob McIntyre Achievement Program Award for a member who is the first-time recipient of a merit award. In this case there were two candidates but Brian received the highest merit award score. Connie McIntyre was present to make the award to Brian. Steve Funsten received a number of awards with excellent merit award points. Peter Youngblood was the recipient of a number of Photograph awards. Randall and Peter both thanked all those members participating and congratulated all those being recognized in the AP program.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – One letter was sent during the month.

2014 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini Emailed report submitted. We have sold 35% of vendor tables to date receiving \$3962 in vendor table sales. Rick Coble has secured the Cobb County raffle license for the 2015 Train Show.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth) - John Stevens – Nothing to report.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Kennesaw) –Howard Goodwin – Howard submitted an email report. The flyer for the January 2015 program has been distributed. The July program date has yet to be finalized with the Southern Museum.

Audio-Visual Production & Promotion Committee-Peter Youngblood, MMR An email report was submitted. The Committee is in the process of creating a re-edited promotional video for the 2015 Train Show.

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – Report submitted. Six new name badges were made during October.

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – Nothing to report.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

Member Aid – Ovidiu Trifanescu – Nothing to report.

Relocation Committee – Norm Lundin. Nothing new to report. We are still planning to move the monthly meeting to the new location in Sandy Springs in February 2015.

Old Business

2014 Action List - Peter Youngblood. Peter submitted his final Action List for 2014 with the vast majority of the assignments completed. He will very soon be submitting a new Action List for 2015.

Peter asked Perry Lamb if the Train’n Camp clinics and the AP clinics could be held at PL’s Marietta church. The answer was yes. This would reduce the clinic expenses included in the preliminary 2015 budget.

Clinic DVD – All clinics that could be prepared in a Power-Point presentation will be posted on the Convention website by the end of November to allow all 2013 Convention attendees to download by the end of the year if they so decide.

Wounded Warriors, USO, and Ronald McDonald Homes – Peter Youngblood Peter is planning on starting a program in January 2015 to assist wounded warriors in obtaining materials on model railroading. Model railroading would be an

excellent rehabilitation alternative and Peter plans for the Division to become actively involved. We will also become more involved with returning veterans at the USO in the airport by supplying them with materials and magazines on model railroading. Peter also plans to utilize one of the recently donated layouts to be upgraded by Division members and then donated to a Ronald McDonald home.

November Division Elections for 2015 – Peter Youngblood Peter reminded the Board of the elections at the Division Meeting that evening. Unfortunately, Bill Raymond, one of the six members running for the four Director's At large positions will be unable to attend the meeting.

New Business

Division Elections – Alan Mole Alan reminded the Board that the Piedmont Division By-Laws require that a member must be present at the meeting to vote in the November elections for the 2015 calendar year. Alan suggested that this was a little unfair and the Division should allow some system of absentee or email voting that would allow all Division members to vote in November. Alan was reminded that this would require a change in the By-Laws which have to be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors and then subsequently by a majority of members attending a Division monthly meeting with required notification of members. Joe Nichols Jr. suggested that Alan prepare a detailed proposal for Board consideration at the next meeting, which Alan agreed to prepare. John Stevens reminded the Board that the State in which the organization is legally authorized generally dictates legal voting requirements. The Division is listed as a non-profit organization in the State of Georgia and apparently the Division can establish its own rules and regulations. Scott Chatfield reminded the Board that the present system is a secret ballot and that we should continue this practice. An email voting system will have to be strictly managed by those involved. Alan noted all these comments and would take into account in his proposal.

Supporting Members in joining the NMRA – Paul Rankin In his position as Director of Personnel, Paul is aware of a few highly motivated model railroad enthusiasts who have difficulty in finding sufficient funds to pay NMRA annual dues. Paul suggested that the Division or its members somehow assist in helping these individuals. Paul plans to make a proposal at a future meeting to establish a formal program to assist such individuals. Peter Youngblood indicated that this possibly could come under the auspices of the Good and Welfare Committee – Chuck Hoesch. Doug Alexander suggested that funds could be donated by other members in a fund-raising effort. Del Kittendorf suggested that a proposal should be made at an Executive Session of the Board to maintain privacy of those under consideration. Paul would take all these comments under advice as he prepares his proposal.

Christmas Party 2014 – Walt Liles Walt Liles reminded the Board that there would be no Board meeting in December and asked all members to assist Dottie Maiuro in preparing for the Party. He also asked all members to bring gifts for "Toys for Tots".

David Gelmini proposed and Perry Lamb seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6.47p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,
Chris White, Director of Administration