

Meeting called to order at 6:03 p.m., Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church, Sandy Springs, GA by Peter Youngblood, MMR, Superintendent. Peter welcomed all officers, board members, committee heads and other Division members. He introduced four special guests from the Headquarters Division in Chattanooga. This Division has been inactive for a few years and now is being reactivated. Four of the new members were attending the Piedmont Division Board of Director's meeting and Division General Meeting to observe and hopefully gain valuable information. The HQ Division members are Roy Masterson, Superintendent, Dale Bryant, AP Chair, Mark McAllister, and Owen Maddux.

Board Members Present (9): Peter Youngblood, MMR, Royal Bruce, Jim Travis, John Falk, Walt Liles, Alan Mole, Norm Lundin, Joe Sullivan, and Chris White.

Board members absent (5): Charlie Crawford, MMR, Brian Sandberg, David Gelmini, Joe Maiuro, and Perry Lamb.

Quorum Present

Committee Chairs, Division Members, and Visitors Present *as taken from the sign-in sheet (20)*: Rick Coble, Howard Goodwin MMR, Gary Jarabek, Steve Funsten, Tom Banks, Chuck Hoesch, Roy Masterson, Dale Bryant, Mark McAllister, Owen Maddux, Dottie Maiuro, James Bando, Sally Bando, Randall Watson, Michael Fleming, Tyler Gelmini, Joe Gelmini, MMR, John Stevens, Paul Voelker, and Martin Guldner.

Officer and Director Reports

Administration - Chris White The September 2016 Minutes were approved following a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by Norm Lundin.

Finance – Joe Sullivan Joe sent the September financial reports by email. Joe commented on a slight change in format regarding the PayPal report. He also informed the Board of the excellent income achieved by John Falk in his new role as Advertising Manager for the Piedmont Pilgrimage Booklet. John received suitable acclamation from those present for his excellent efforts. The September financial report was approved following a motion by Walt Liles and seconded by Jim Travis.

Operations—Walt Liles Walt sent a report by email and he reviewed the major portions of his report at the meeting. He particularly mentioned the last minute replacement clinician – Mr. Shane Wilson with ScaleTrains.com – who did an outstanding job of presenting the efforts of his team in establishing a new manufacturer in the model railroad business. Walt also thanked Bob Kelshaw for leading the Division outreach program at the Roswell Library in early October. The event was highly successful with 196 visitors. A big thanks also to the Country Railroads modular group for operating their layout in the library. Walt offered another big thank you to Digitrax for their gift of the Zephyr which was auctioned at the September meeting to assist with funding the Pilgrimage booklet. Walt also informed the Board that he was leading an effort to reconstruct the model railroad at the Southeaster Railroad Museum and asked for assistance in this endeavor.

Personnel/Membership - Royal Bruce Royal sent a report by email. There were 88 members at the September meeting. The 12-month rolling average attendance is now 100 and the 24-month average is 104. Two visitors at the September meeting joined the NMRA! Royal again had sent a list by email and also circulated a list of 17 NMRA members who had not yet renewed their membership and again asked for assistance to attempt to follow up with these very recent NMRA members.

Committee Reports These reports had been emailed to all Board members. These committee reports were accepted following a motion by Jim Travis and seconded by Norm Lundin.

Website - Scott Povlot – Scott sent a report by email. There were 1904 page views on the Division website during September. Scott also assisted Joe Sullivan in conducting the Division survey online. Scott reported that we had received 89 responses through the 9th October.

Pilgrimage, Advertising, and Promotion/Division Apparel - Gary Jarabek - Gary sent reports by email. He reports that we presently have 91 layouts on the schedule for the 2016 Pilgrimage – with 11 new layouts. The Pilgrimage committee is now focused on finding additional volunteers for the operator assistance program (Bob Wheeler).

Achievement Program – Randall Watson Randall sent a report by email. No activity during the month.

Good and Welfare –Chuck & Mary Ann Hoesch – Chuck sent a report by email. Two letters were sent during September.

2017 Model Train Show –Joe Gelmini, MMR Nothing to report.

Boy Scout Merit Badge Program (Duluth and Kennesaw) – Howard Goodwin, MMR Howard noted that the Merit Badge program held in Duluth on October 8th went very well with 31 scouts attending – and five no shows. This was the first program that used the “make and take” test instead of the switching layouts. The scouts did an excellent job of assembling the NMRA (John Stevens) boxcars. Howard also reported that 50% of the scouts paid their fee on PayPal. .

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

Name Badges & Photography - James Bando – James sent a report by email. He made five Division name badges during September and also sent photographs to Doug Alexander for inclusion in the Timetable...

Division Video Library - David Gelmini – David sent a report by email. He reported that there were no changes to the video library.

Division Book Library - Stephen Leydon – Nothing to report.

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

Train'in Camp - Perry Lamb - Perry submitted a brief report by email and indicated there would be little activity from now through the end of this year. He also informed the Board that he would be updating the Division's computers.

Outreach - Brain Sandberg – Nothing of significance to report.

Old Business

2016 Action List - Peter Youngblood, MMR - Peter sent out an updated Action List for 2016. Peter reminded the Board that the Strategic Planning meeting for the Division was now scheduled for Saturday October 15th at the Holy Innocents location – 10.00 am through 12.00 pm. Peter also informed the Board that the Division should be really proud of their achievements in 2016. He had initiated the 2016 four-page Action List and was pleased to report that the majority of items on the list had been fully achieved and on time.

IRS Tax designation from 501 (c) 4 to 501 (c) 3 - Alan Mole. Alan reported that he was updating the files and would be completing the application to the IRS as soon as possible. It would be impossible to estimate the timing of a reply by the IRS.

Division Survey – Joe Sullivan The survey had already been posted on the Division website and Joe had received 89 completed surveys. Joe reviewed the results of the survey which could be summarized as follows:

- 38% of those responding did not regularly attend Division meetings.
- Members most needed specific help in improving their model railroading skills. (This is despite the availability of a Member-Aid program that has been in place for many years.)

Peter suggested that details of the survey results be reviewed at the Strategic Planning Meeting this coming Saturday.

2017 Elections –Chuck Hoesch. The 2017 elections were scheduled for November 8th. The list of candidates had been posted on the online Timetable for members to review and also to permit early voting by the system approved in 2015. The candidates would be granted a maximum of two minutes at the November meeting to inform those present of their credentials and suitability for the position for which they were running. Peter Youngblood reminded the Board that the new Superintendent would be appointing a new Director of Operations for the year 2017 to complete Matt Coleman’s original two-year term – recently filled by Walt Liles through the remainder of 2016.

Division Donations Committee - Peter Youngblood Peter Youngblood, although not in any way disagreeing with the August motion in memory of Gene Nichols, reminded the Board of his concern regarding setting precedents. Many of our active members and their spouses were not exactly “young” any more, and he anticipated that there would be more candidates for consideration in the future. Peter suggested the establishment of a sub-committee to review the criteria for similar donations in the future. Those present fully agreed with Peter and four members immediately offered to serve on the committee – in no particular order – Jim Travis, Norm Lundin, Alan Mole, and Randall Watson. The group would meet in the immediate future to select a Chairman.

New Business

SER Mini Meet – Aiken S.C. – Alan Mole. Alan reported that they had a very successful and enjoyable mini-meet in Aiken S.C. – giving details of clinics and open houses etc.

SER – DVD Sales – Alan Mole. Alan informed the Board that the SER would no longer be selling DVDs as the information was now easily obtained on YouTube and other sites

Country Railroads Modular Group – Alan Mole Alan updated the Board on recent progress and activities of this excellent modular group.

Strategic Planning Meeting - Peter Youngblood Peter reminded the Board of the upcoming Strategic Planning Meeting to be held at the Church on Saturday morning October 15th and invited all present to attend. (Ed. Note: The meeting was held on the 15th October with a full agenda. However, only 11 members attended – six current Board members and five non-Board members.)

Pilgrimage – Gary Jarabek Gary informed the Board and those members present that Pilgrimage Host Packages would be available in the central area to allow hosts to pick up their packages – without taking time to do this one by one at the Division meeting.

Any Other Business - There was no other business.

Meeting Adjournment Alan Mole proposed and Jim Travis seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Confirmed by acclamation and the **Meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Chris White, Director of Administration